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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Are you in favor of holding a weeklong Liberation Day celebration instead of one month?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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TRAVELOGUE

Here's a list of 88 fun things to see and do in Guam. ➤ PAGE 14

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Senate to reject CUC emergency

» 'CNMI backing out of $10M loan deal another procurement black eye'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Senate leadership is poised to reject Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's executive order declaring a state of emergency for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., saying the reasons cited by the governor in his EO could have been addressed without taking over CUC once more.

Manglona

See SENATE on Page 4

Burglary suspect's girlfriend arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» Hickeys give clue to detectives

Hickeys on the neck gave police detectives a clue that the girlfriend of a man suspected of burglarizing the U.S. Army Reserve Center's troop store in Puerto Rico knew where he was, despite her denying any knowledge of his whereabouts.

See BURGLARY on Page 4

CHC's 30-year-old boiler replaced

Commonwealth Health Center chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta and House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa check yesterday the condition of the 30-year-old boiler at the hospital. Other photo shows the two brand new steam boilers being unloaded. The new equipment, worth around $500,000, was procured using a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs. MONETH G. DEPOSA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center replaced yesterday its 30-year-old steam boiler with two brand-new ones.

In a visit to CHC engineering facility yesterday, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta showed media the vintage equipment and the urgency to address its leak, among other problems.

"It's very timely that we received these new boilers because the old one we're using is 30 years old, which is very dangerous," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding they were relieved when they finally received yesterday the shipment of new boilers.

The machines were acquired using a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Saipan Tribune saw yesterday the unloading of the new steam boilers, which, according to contractor Tony Scragg, is worth around $500,000 and will last more than 30 years.

According to Hospital Emergency Preparedness director Warren Villagomez, the two boilers will phase out the single boiler at CHC.

"These two will expand the capacity of boiler usage such as in kitchen dishwashing machine and for the operating room as well as in other areas of the facility. Overall, it will sustain our needs and would cut down our fuel consumption. So economically, this is favorable to CHC," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said it would take 30 days for the new equipment to start working, pending the completion of all plumbing con-

See CHC on Page 4

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Local

NMC enforces higher student ratio to save on costs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Students enrolling at the Northern Marianas College will see bigger class sizes beginning this summer following a decision by management to enforce a higher student ratio in classrooms.

From the regular 12 students per classroom most classes will now have 20 or more students, pursuant to the new internal policy approved by NMC president Sharon Y. Hart.

This way, Hart said, the college can reduce the number of classes that will be offered for specific courses.

For example, instead of offering seven courses in a particular subject like mathematics, NMC can now reduce the offerings to four or five. She called this approach a better management of student numbers and is economically efficient for NMC.

The new policy takes effect this summer until further notice.

Hart described the new ratio as acceptable. Most community colleges accommodate up to 30 students per class, a number that NMC has set as its maximum ratio.

Some renovations are already occurring on campus in time for the start of the fall 2012 semester. NMC is restructuring many of its classrooms, removing walls to enlarge classroom spaces.

Hart said that some courses and classes would be exempted from the new class ratio. One is the nursing program, which has national standards and requirements. Some independent classes, she said, may also take place for graduating students who need to take specific classes even without the needed number of enrollees.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, director of NMC's Office of Institutional Advancement, said that teaching a greater number of students per class allows better group interaction. "In my experience, it [new ratio] is working well," he said.

Deleon Guerrero discounted worries that the increased ratio will affect the quality of education for students.

In terms of program and degree offerings, Hart said that NMC cannot make any changes at this time pursuant to the rule of the accreditation commission. Until NMC's show-cause status is lifted, Hart said the college cannot introduce new programs unless it has "substantive changes," which has to be approved by the commission.

Chamber sets dates for election forums

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host election forums for this year's Nov. 6, 2012, elections, including the U.S. congressional seat, the elections for the CNMI Senate, and possibly individual House precinct candidates.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan said the U.S. congressional candidate forum will be held on Oct. 17 and the Senate candidate forum on Sept. 27. He said the Chamber is currently examining the chances of holding a first ever House candidate forums by individual districts.

Based upon the candidates' forum responses, the Chamber will be rating individual candidates based upon input from the candidates on matters most important to the business group.

The Chamber believes the CNMI Legislature's performance is critical to redeveloping the CNMI as an attractive destination and location for leisure travel, and more importantly, as a site for future foreign investment.

Tax incentives, burdensome regulatory requirements, land alienation issues, investment incentive programs, issues affecting the cost of doing business, transportation and infrastructure availability and costs, the implementation of federal authority over immigration and opportunities with EB5 regional center sponsored investor visa applications, human resource needs, and many other issues will be addressed at the forums.

Discussion was held with legislators addressing Chamber concerns with recent proposed legislation primarily focusing on revenue generation. The Chamber stands against any attempt by the Legislature to reduce tax rebates, which essentially defeats the purpose behind tax incentives as a means to attract foreign investment, create jobs, and provide badly needed government revenue.

As an example of good legislation aimed at protecting investments in the CNMI, Brennan offered Chamber support for Senate Bill 17-50 that would require DPL to announce public land lease expirations well in advance of the ending dates. The Chamber sees this as a way to avoid situations as is currently occurring at the Coral Ocean Point Golf and Hotel Resort.

Brennan said: "We'd rather have a Legislature that understands fully how to promote, protect, and preserve existing business investment and future possibilities, as opposed to offering comments on proposed legislation that does the exact opposite."

The Chamber expects to begin meetings with the CNMI Senate and House, and the Fitial administration, on ways best to create jobs, entice investment, and grow anew the CNMI. ***(SCC)***

Man found incompetent to stand trial for alleged sex abuse

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has found a man accused of sexually abusing a boy to be incompetent to stand trial and ordered that the suspect be tested to see if he will regain his competency.

Camacho determined yesterday that he cannot at this time determine that Wilfredo Imperial Jr. has shown by a preponderance of evidence that there is no substantial likelihood that he will regain competency within 90 days.

Camacho stayed his decision regarding the 90-day period issue, pending further testing and treatment to determine Imperial's likelihood of regaining competency.

The judge determined that the 30-year-old Imperial lacks the ability for now to consult with his lawyer with a degree of rational understanding and lacks a rational as well as factual understanding of the proceedings against him.

"In this court's view, the apparent complexity of [Imperial's] case, the relatively short interview conducted without a Chamorro interpreter, and the lack of evidence regarding treatment in [his] case warrant further psychological testing to determine whether [Imperial's] present conditions can be remediated to make him competent within the statutory period," said Camacho in a 17-page order.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Imperial in November 2011 with various crimes related to his alleged sexual abuse of a then 13-year-old boy.

In December 2011, the defendant's counsel, chief public defender Adam C. Hardwicke, asked that Imperial be made to undergo a competency evaluation. Dr. Reinhold Meister did the competency evaluation.

In his order yesterday, Camacho said that he will commit Imperial to an evaluation facility for 14 days, where he can be tested and treated. A hearing will then be held to determine Imperial's likelihood of regaining competency. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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FOR SPRING 2012 SEMESTER

NMI Scholarship approves 533, junks 593 applications

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The NMI Scholarship Office denied more applications than approved them for the spring 2012 semester due to unmet requirements and other factors.

Administrator Jackie Che disclosed Tuesday that the agency approved a total of 533 applications for the spring semester while rejecting 593 others due to a host of factors.

Che

Of the approved applications, 248 were from off-island and 285 were from the Northern Marianas College.

A total of 264 applications from off-island were denied due to missing records, late document submission, or failure to meet requirements such as the cumulative GPA, AA/BA award duration, exceeded non-degree unit, part or quarter-time status, and non-U.S. citizens.

Some 329 applications of NMC students were denied as they are not enrolled or have withdrawn their enrollment, have pending FAFSA submission, no financial need based on NMC's determination, and failure to meet some other program requirements.

According to Che, some fall 2011 applications carried over to the spring 2012 semester. Technically, that meant students did not need to re-apply for the spring 2012 semester if they've already submitted a fall 2011 application. Che said the fall 2011 applications were deemed good for one school year.

For the new school year, an applicant must turn in an application for the fall 2012 semester to be considered for that semester and another application to be considered for the spring 2012 semester.

Che said the board did not make any changes in the financial awards for recipients for the spring 2012 semester.

The NMI Scholarship Office has a budget of $2 million this fiscal year, of which $1.1 million will go to NMC scholars—both Honors and EAP—while the remaining balance will pay for the financial assistance of off-island scholars.

Che said $810,000 has been set aside for off-island recipients for the entire fiscal year 2012.

CHC panel chooses HealthTech for hospital assessment project

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The four-member special committee tasked to select the firm that will assess the entire operations of the Commonwealth Health Center has picked U.S.-based HealthTech for the job.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, a member of the panel, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that HealthTech bested two other companies on the final list: Soyring Consulting and TMGI Inc.

Babauta

Babauta disclosed that the panel interview with the companies' representatives was done via teleconference this week. Based on the information submitted, costing, approach to assessment, and timeline, the panel chose HealthTech after the company garnered the most number of points among members.

The other three members of the panel are hospital administrator Karen Buettner, governor's consultant for Medicaid Esther Muña, and the governor's legal counsel James Stump, who is now coordinating the schedule of the winning firm.

Babauta said that HealthTech is expected to start work "very soon" as soon as the firm is ready to mobilize.

The hospital assessment aims to give the government and the corporation a clear picture of the Commonwealth Health Center's standing in terms staffing, operation, and financial state.

Babauta disclosed that the general standing of the hospital has not been clear since the corporation took over the Department of Public Health in October 2011. By doing the assessment, both the government and the corporation will have solid information that could help turn around the hospital's deteriorating condition.

HealthTech, he said, is a large company that specializes in broad hospital operations and has experience in running hospitals.

Funding for the assessment will be sourced from an Office of Insular Affairs grant amounting to approximately $150,000. It was agreed that the selected firm will be paid this amount plus expenses.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier initiated a request for proposal seeking firms to do a study on the public hospital. Five companies responded to the announcement, later narrowed down to three. The other companies that were eliminated in the process were Medical City from the Philippines and U.S.-based Sanigest International.

Marianas History Conference starts today

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Today marks the beginning of the Marianas History Conference, which will be held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan until June 16.

The first of its kind in the CNMI, the Marianas History Conference is open to the public for free and is sponsored by the NMI Humanities Council, the Guam Preservation Trust, Guampedia.com, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

The theme for the three-day conference is "One Archipelago, Many Stories" as the conference aims to reunify the history of the Marianas, which has become fragmented due to the islands' political division.

Registration for the conference, including the welcoming of off-island delegates, will start at 8am, with a roundtable discussion on "Administration of Public History" from 1pm to 3pm.

The Marianas History Conference will kick off at 3:30pm with keynote speakers. Fr. Francis X. Hezel, SJ, will talk about "Setting the Agenda: Quilting the Patches and Stitching them Together" while Dr. Robert Underwood will discuss "Leapfrogging Through History: Hayi Mañaina-mu."

Another featured presenter, Pale Eric Forbes, will lecture about "Migration of Chamorros from Guam to Saipan in the late 1800s."

The conference lectures are broken down into six time periods and categories: Oral History/Genealogy, Ancient History, Early Colonial History, World War II, Late Colonial History, and Recent History.

The conference will also be highlighted by poster presentations, with the closing plenary session to be held on Saturday around 3:10pm to 4:15pm. Optional tours for conference participants will also be available.

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Feds move 13 of 20 inmates to Guam, Hawaii, L.A.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement gradually transferred 13 of its 20 detainees to Guam, Hawaii, and Los Angeles in California over the last four weeks or so, while the CNMI works on ICE's concerns about the inadequacy of healthcare services for federal inmates at the Susupe prison.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham said these transfers are "operational decisions" made by ICE. He said the CNMI expects the population of detainees to remain at about seven for now, though specific detainees will come and go.

"The Commonwealth and ICE collaborate on a range of issues including housing detainees. We expect that the population will return to 20 once the healthcare issues are addressed. Both ICE and the Commonwealth are proceeding with the understanding this is a priority. There is no specific timeline in place," Buckingham said in response to *Saipan Tribune* questions.

Some of ICE's requirements, including having an in-house nurse at the Susupe prison or an on-call nurse, are difficult to meet at a time when the Department of Corrections and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. are financially struggling, other sources said yesterday.

A former member of the CNMI Prison Task Force and former CNMI Immigration director, Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), said yesterday that it would be best if the U.S. Bureau of Prisons also visit and check the Susupe prison for a "more neutral assessment."

Sablan said ICE is a "client" of the CNMI, whose assessment could also be geared toward lowering the bed rate or the conditions of the "task orders."

"I'm surprised that it's ICE that's bringing up the issue and not the Bureau of Prisons or the U.S. Department of Justice about services at the prison. We should have an independent entity reviewing the condition at the prison, and not just a client like ICE," said Sablan.

ICE representatives recently visited the Susupe prison complex in connection with its negotiations with the CNMI on ICE's use of the facility to house its inmates.

ICE has yet to respond to media inquiries regarding specific healthcare concerns for federal inmates at the Susupe prison, although CHC said these have to do with dental services, improved medical records organization, medical consent forms, medical staffing, diabetic supplies, and mental health assessment, among other things.

The $89 rate per inmate per day that the CNMI is currently charging ICE covers only the detainee's housing and basic medical care, Buckingham said.

For additional services such as hospital visit and transportation, among other things, these are billed in addition to the daily $89 fee.

Once ICE's concerns are addressed, it could move back inmates to the Susupe facility either to the previous level or more, including up to 50.

Buckingham said "the increase to 50 is part of long term planning by both ICE and the Commonwealth."

"Both parties recognize the positives—that the Department of Corrections operates a safe, security facility, and its operations are appropriate and acceptable to ICE. However, healthcare for detainees is an essential component and this issue, primarily addressed by services from [CHC] is a critical ingredient to getting back to 20 and then moving to 50," the AG said.

Buckingham also said there are other technical issues—such as development of video conference capacity for immigration hearings—that will also be addressed prior to getting to 50 federal inmates.

"However, healthcare is the immediate, next step," he added.

Housing 50 federal inmates at the Susupe prison could translate to $1.6 million revenue for the CNMI based on an $89 rate per inmate per day.

The CNMI is upbeat about addressing ICE's concerns while at the same time cognizant of the challenges.

"There are always going to be challenges. But the governor has committed to collaboration between the CNMI and ICE. The test of a partnership isn't when everything is working well. It's when you encounter a problem. We have jointly identified the problems, are working to solve them, and look forward to a continued, positive relationship with ICE. Not only with regard to housing detainees but also in moving forward on the issue of removal of individuals who should no longer be on U.S. soil," Buckingham said.

The Office of the Attorney General and DOC have been working with ICE on behalf of the CNMI on ICE's use of the Susupe prison for its detainees.

The latest task order, amounting to $53,400, is for the federal agency's use of the prison at least through June 30 but that could be extended through May 2013.

The AG said the goal of both the CNMI and ICE "is to continue to have a working partnership and to continue to use the Department of Corrections facility to house administrative [ICE] detainees."

SENATE

From Page 1

This is the first time a legislative leader spoke out on the issue. Both the Senate and House have been uncharacteristically mum after Fitial placed under a state of emergency not only CUC but also the NMI Retirement Fund and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. within weeks of each other.

At the same time, the Senate is concerned that CUC's decision to back out of a $10-million loan agreement with Rhode Island-based Independence Bank after getting local and federal agencies involved and without promptly notifying the bank could discourage legitimate investors from dealing with the CNMI.

Fitial cited cash, procurement, and hiring crises for placing CUC under emergency—reasons that have already been addressed or could have been addressed without an EO, said Manglona.

"I respectfully ask all the members to reject the executive order for CUC," Manglona said in an interview with reporters.

Manglona said the governor could have signed the Marianas Public Land Trust's $7 million line of credit bill for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to help CHC pay CUC, to cover portions of the central government's $8 million debt to CUC for unpaid utility billings.

Fitial signed the line of credit bill after already placing CUC under emergency.

The governor's CUC EO also came just a few days after U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Anthony M. Babauta approved on May 14 the redirection of $3.5 million in capital improvement project money from the Puerto Rico Dump closure project to CUC so that CUC could comply with federal consent decree requirements.

In his EO, Fitial said the lack of a functional Public Utilities Commission is stalling renewable energy projects that need PUC procurement review. It must be noted, though, that the Senate has already confirmed Fitial's three appointees to the PUC even without a public hearing on one of them and the lack of required documents from all three.

There has never been a full PUC board since its inception. Fitial waited until after the term of the last remaining commissioner expired to nominate three new commissioners.

"PUC was created by law for a reason. I am concerned that even with a functional PUC, the governor will try to circumvent the law and decide on all contracts by himself or his administration," Manglona added.

Fitial said that CUC cannot procure projects from off-island bidders because the Board of Professional Licensing does not have the quorum required to issue licenses or certificates of authorization, which are prerequisites to bidding on CUC projects.

BPL has only one member now; the law requires at least three to have a quorum. Fitial has nominated people to BPL but with little success after the nominees backed out or declined the offer. The Senate is just awaiting the governor's nominations to BPL.

The governor also cited the need to continue hiring non-U.S. technical staff at CUC but Public Law 17-1 limits CUC's ability to do so. It was also Fitial who signed that bill into law.

Manglona acknowledges that both the Senate and House should reject the governor's EO for it to become effective. "All it takes is one house to keep quiet and this EO will still remain in place," Manglona said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration is hopeful that the House will not reject the CUC EO.

"The governor believes that the House members equally share the administration's desire to bring about affordable utilities for everyone. The EO will remain in effect until such time that the goal of shifting dependence from conventional to alternative energy is achieved," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), chair of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, said that based on what he has read and heard, the governor does not seem to have a standing in declaring CUC under a state of emergency.

"CUC has been addressing its deficiencies and we never heard of CUC asking for it to be placed under emergency prior to the governor signing the EO. But this is something that we should carefully look into," Villagomez said.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), who earlier said that the central government—and not CUC, CHC, and the Fund—should be placed under a state of emergency, said he had the same sentiments as the Senate—"that CUC issues could be addressed without the governor's intervention but now that the executive director [Abe Malae] is no longer present, then this changes how CUC is to move forward."

Fitial met with Malae before actually issuing the CUC EO dated May 18. The EO, however, already appointed an acting executive director even before Fitial and Malae met, and even before Malae could turn in his resignation.

"If Malae was still on board, I would vote to reject [the EO] but at this time I do not trust the acting director and comptroller to move CUC forward. Aside from this, these gentlemen are not quite versed in the new alternative energy as presented by Global Energy Corp. The governor has been made aware of this new technology and ongoing talks are being made," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

Dela Cruz, chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, said, "Unfortunately, present management, except for Wallon Young, are not aware of these developments.

"Again, I would like to know the Senate's reasoning to reject [the EO]. I hope that this is not a political game being played," he added.

CHC

From Page 1

nections.

Babauta said the acquisition of the boilers is among the corporation's biggest projects. He described this tool as important to the operation of the hospital because without a functioning boiler, everything will be impacted including major operations and surgeries.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (R-Saipan) described the new machines as "a life-saver."

Babauta disclosed last week that CHC also installed a new automatic transfer switch, or ATS, with 750 kilovolt capacity. In an emergency power system, an automatic transfer switch transfers a building's source of electricity from its primary source to a secondary one, usually from commercial supply to back-up generator supply.

BURGLARY

From Page 1

Police arrested Derik C. Reyes' girlfriend, Jashlie Nicole Camacho, on Tuesday night in Gualo Rai on a charge of accessory after the fact to burglary.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman allowed the 20-year-old Camacho yesterday to post a $100 cash bail and $900 in unsecured bond. She will be arraigned on July 2 at 9am.

A police report states that shortly after Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an arrest warrant for Derik Reyes on June 4, 2012, teams of detectives were assigned to check the known locations of Reyes.

A police detective said he and a colleague went to Camacho's house and asked her about her boyfriend's whereabouts. Camacho allegedly told the detectives that she has not seen Reyes the past week and that she could not recall the exact date and time they last met. The detectives, however, saw a hickey on Camacho's neck that appeared to be recent at the time.

Camacho was then told about the arrest warrant for Reyes and was asked to call the police if Reyes contacts her.

On June 6 at 5:15pm, police operatives obtained information that Camacho was about to pick up Reyes at the Welcome Laundry in Chalan Kanoa to transport him elsewhere. Police immediately did a search of Camacho's vehicle in the Welcome Laundry area but failed to find Camacho's vehicle or Reyes.

At 8:30pm that same day, police obtained information that Camacho and Reyes were about to check-in at a motel but no exact location was given. An officer later confirmed at 8:50pm that Camacho had checked in at the Sunshine Garden Motel in Susupe at 7:10pm.

A receptionist confirmed with the officer that Camacho was with an infant inside one of the rooms. The receptionist, however, failed to confirm if Reyes was inside the room.

Police then staked out the motel. At 10:30pm, detectives knocked on Camacho's room and she told the officers that she has not seen Reyes. The officers searched the room and failed to find him. Detectives again saw another hickey on Camacho's neck that appeared "to be very new."

When confronted about the hickey, Camacho broke down and confessed that Reyes was with her in the room earlier that night and that he left the motel using her car.

The 31-year-old Reyes surrendered on Sunday to the Department of Public Safety.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center's Army Air Force Exchange Store, also known as the troop store, was burglarized on May 30 and the suspect was caught on surveillance camera committing the crime. Reported stolen were a 32-inch Panasonic LCD flat screen TV, two HP 201 monitors, and two Bose sound dock portable systems, all estimated to cost over $1,500.

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An event to benefit higher education in the Northern Mariana Islands

Saturday, June 30, 2012
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Showtime: 6:00 am/Shotgun Start: 7:00 am
Flights: Championship, A, B, C, Ladies, and Seniors
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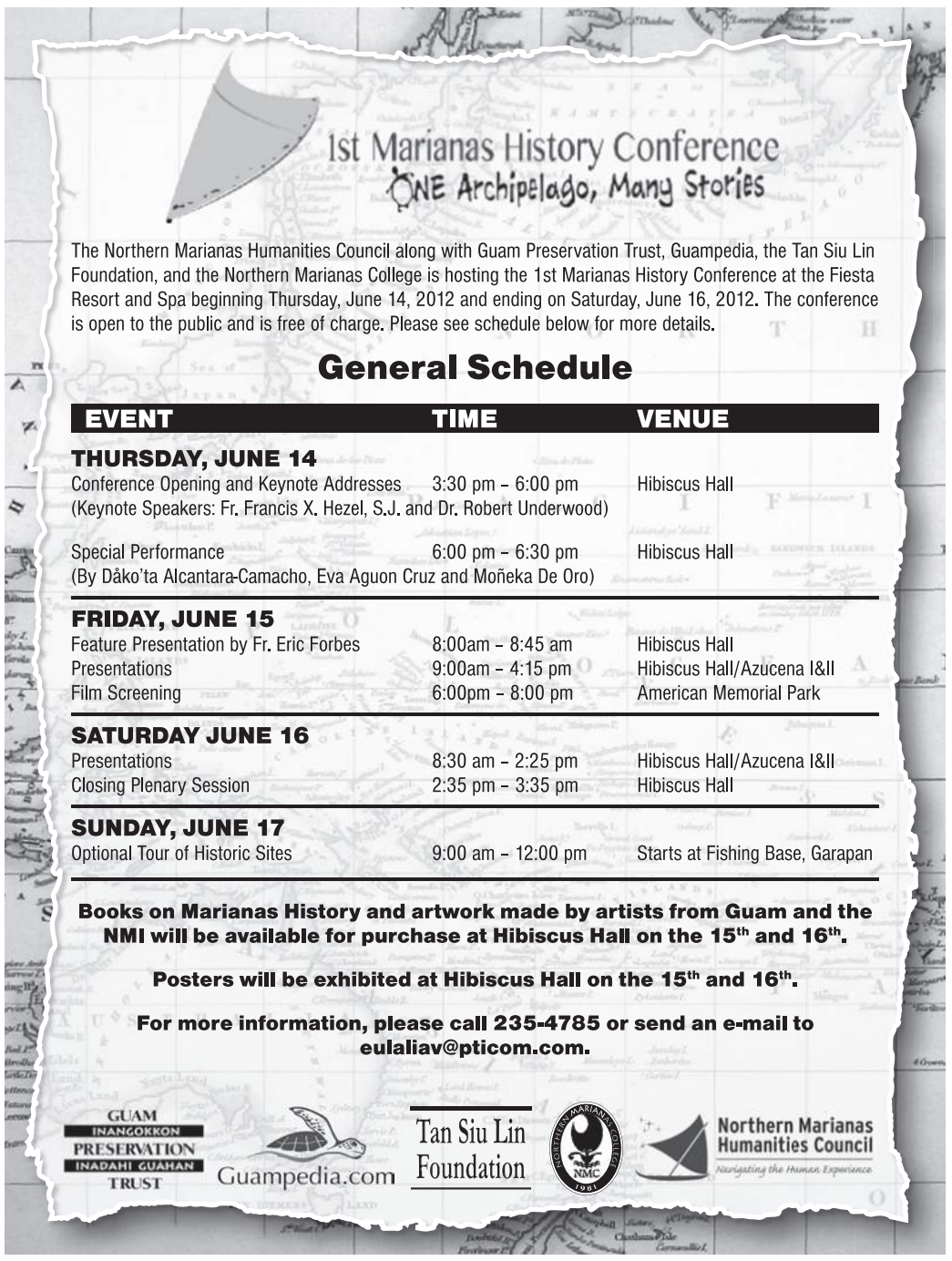
Saturday, June 16, 2012
NMC's Building A

The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by any time between 9:00am and 3:00pm.

Although not required for entry to the workshop, please bring the following documents to help you complete the scholarship forms at the workshop:

1. ID: Passport, Birth Certificate, or Green Card
2. Official Transcript (3 Official Copies)
3. Tax Forms: Your or your parents' signed 2011 1040 form (2011 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes)
4. Proof of CNMI residency for 2010 and 2011 (for example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voter's Certification, etc.)

The Cash for College Workshop is made possible through funds from the U.S. DOE, College Access Challenge Grant


1st Marianas History Conference
ONE Archipelago, Many Stories
The Northern Marianas Humanities Council along with Guam Preservation Trust, Guampedia, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and the Northern Marianas College is hosting the 1st Marianas History Conference at the Fiesta Resort and Spa beginning Thursday, June 14, 2012 and ending on Saturday, June 16, 2012. The conference is open to the public and is free of charge. Please see schedule below for more details.
General Schedule
EVENT TIME VENUE
THURSDAY, JUNE 14
Conference Opening and Keynote Addresses 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm Hibiscus Hall
(Keynote Speakers: Fr. Francis X. Hezel, S.J. and Dr. Robert Underwood)
Special Performance 6:00 pm – 6:30 pm Hibiscus Hall
(By Dåko'ta Alcantara-Camacho, Eva Aguon Cruz and Moñeka De Oro)
FRIDAY, JUNE 15
Feature Presentation by Fr. Eric Forbes 8:00am – 8:45 am Hibiscus Hall
Presentations 9:00am – 4:15 pm Hibiscus Hall/Azucena I&II
Film Screening 6:00pm – 8:00 pm American Memorial Park
SATURDAY JUNE 16
Presentations 8:30 am – 2:25 pm Hibiscus Hall/Azucena I&II
Closing Plenary Session 2:35 pm – 3:35 pm Hibiscus Hall
SUNDAY, JUNE 17
Optional Tour of Historic Sites 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Starts at Fishing Base, Garapan
Books on Marianas History and artwork made by artists from Guam and the NMI will be available for purchase at Hibiscus Hall on the 15th and 16th.
Posters will be exhibited at Hibiscus Hall on the 15th and 16th.
For more information, please call 235-4785 or send an e-mail to eulaliav@pticom.com.
GUAM INANGOKKON PRESERVATION INADAHI GUAHAN TRUST
Guampedia.com
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Karaoke operator to be arraigned today on sex trafficking charges

The scheduled arraignment of a karaoke operator who was arrested for alleged sex trafficking did not push through on Tuesday as she still has no lawyer.

Chang Ru Meng Backman, 39, told the court that she has already spoken to an attorney, who instructed her to inform the court that he was being retained as counsel for her.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy asked the court to postpone the hearing so they can contact the lawyer.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the arraignment today, June 14, at 10am and remanded Backman to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The indictment charged Backman with three counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion, and three counts of alien smuggling-harboring.

According to the indictment, Backman operated the Holiday Night Club, a karaoke bar in Chalan Kanoa that allegedly provided sexual services for an added fee. Backman allegedly received money from club customers for sexual services performed by women at her direction. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meeting on June 19

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 19, 2012, at 8:30am in the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai. The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, 2012 CNCSWD, and program/project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

CNMI women execs on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, June 16, 2012, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Sen. Jovita M. Taiamanao, president of the CNMI Women's Association, and project director Florine M. Hofschneider to talk about their subgrant from the U.S. Department of Human Services and their project goals and objectives. The show is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show (direct to studio at 234-5929 or use instant messaging via the Marianas Agupa Facebook account. The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Autism Society meeting tomorrow

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding a special meeting tomorrow, June 15, at 5:50pm at the conference room of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. or NMPASI in Gualo Rai. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism-related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For more information, contact Frank Cabrera at 287-9552 or 888-5749 (frankdcabrera@hotmail.com). ***(PR)***

Free Friday films at the American Memorial Park

The American Memorial Park presents free family friendly films twice a day every Friday (2pm and 6pm) in the Visitor Center auditorium. The film premiere on June 22 will be *Brother Bear*. Future films include *Up, Dr. Seuss' Horton Hears a Who, Ratatouille, Robots*, and *Charlotte's Web*. ***(PR)***

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FOA seeks committed board members

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Friends of the Arts has several openings for its board of directors, according to president Susan Fishman-Tudor.

"We're always looking for people who have ideas and commitment to the community. Be a part of our board and assist us throughout the year," she said, speaking to members of the Rotary Club of Saipan on Tuesday.

Fishman-Tudor

Since four or five years ago, FOA board members have been taking part in an annual retreat every July, Fishman-Tudor said. The retreat also serves as a venue for board members to decide on the productions that FOA will present to the community for their season, which runs from September to May.

Once the productions are decided, FOA is then able to offer season tickets that guarantee a seat in all four productions.

At present, each season ticket costs $40 per person. A regular ticket per show costs $12 for FOA members, $15 for adults, $8 for students.

Fishman-Tudor revealed that FOA does not make money out of their ticket prices as they only cover productions costs, including the rights and royalties to the scripts for the play.

She said many have urged them to just get the scripts online to reduce their costs since rights and royalties amount to anywhere between $1,800 and $2,500. "But we work with so many young people that we need to teach by example," Fishman-Tudor explained. "So we honor our artists and pay the rights and royalties."

She noted that since her tenure as FOA president began about seven years ago, the organization has been producing at least four major theater productions each year. Each production requires six to eight weeks of commitment and hard work from the cast to the production crew.

"They make this commitment and the accomplishment is incredible," she said. "The feeling that they exude after is just phenomenal. What we do for our young people, teaching them poise, eloquence, and elocution, you can't put a price or value on that."

FOA's last season featured the music revue, *Andrew Lloyd Webber: Beyond Memories*, *A Miracle Worker*, the story of Helen Keller and Annie Sullivan; the 5th concert of classical piano virtuoso Roman Rudnytsky; *Aida the Musical*, Elton John version; and *Sleuth*.

As FOA president, Fishman-Tudor's goal is "to provide the CNMI community with quality performing art productions and to ensure that [FOA] contributes to the community through its own productions and its support of other performing arts organizations."

Just like the Rotary, FOA is also a community service organization, she said. It supports several organizations on island, including the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Concert Band, Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, Thespians of the Western Pacific, National and Junior forensic leagues, Do Re Mi School of music, Yon Sei Academy, and Keynotes School of Music.

For more information about FOA, call 287-2225 or email flgibson@yahoo.com.

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JKPL seeks input to map out five-year plan

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is currently developing its Five-Year State Library Services and Technology Act Plan or LSTA Plan that would reflect the island community's needs and goals in the delivery of library and technology services in the Commonwealth.

The LSTA Plan for 2013 to 2017 should reflect six themes: public access to information, library capacity building, lifelong learning, human services, employment and economic development, and civic engagement.

Executive director John Gonzales said this plan will be approved by the CNMI Library Council before it is submitted to the Institute of Museum & Library Services by June 30.

As part of the plan's development process, Gonzales said the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is seeking input from elected and education officials. Gonzales is urging Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and Education Commissioner Rita Sablan to submit inputs and identify goals regarding library-related technologies, media, and infrastructure.

Part of the library's plan is to give patrons access to e-books subscription through library cards, uninterrupted interisland connectivity and library circulation automation, and continuous trainings to build local capacity.

Gonzales encouraged Dela Cruz, Mendiola, and Sablan to consult with their libraries, IT professionals, public and private educational entities, and other stakeholders to obtain input for submission.

He said feedbacks and goals need to be SMART: simple, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-sensitive.

To submit feedbacks or for more information, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe, email joetenkiyupubliclibrary@gmail.com, or call 235-7315/22/23. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jun. 14, 1999

DLNR seeks dismissal of marina case
Assistant Attorney General Sally Pfund has asked the U.S. District Court to dismiss a case filed by the Marine Revitalization Corporation against the Department of Land and Natural Resources since no constitutional right was violated. According to Pfund, the case talks about a breach of contract between the two parties and a debate on the interpretation of the regulation concerning boat owners. Both contentions are not considered federal matters and can be heard at the Superior Court, not in the U.S. District Court, she added.

Prison siege witnesses to move back to DPS, DOLI
The U.S. District Court has ordered the transfer of five prisoners to the eepartments of Public Safety and Labor and Immigration after they served as witnesses against the leaders of the April prison takeover. The US District Court said Thursday said inmates Yan Chun, Shi Gong Wen, Wang Ting Hua, Cui Xing Hao and Zhou Bo should be returned to the custody of these departments to allow them serve their prison term. The five were placed temporarily under the custody of the US Marshal as material witnesses against the participants in the takeover of the Division of Corrections. They were kept by federal authorities while the investigation was going on.

Jun. 14, 2000

Carrier upbeat on re-entry to Korean market
Continental Micronesia expressed confidence in the recovery of the South Korean economy as it began promotional campaigns in Seoul through an official announcement of its re-entry into the second largest tourism market in Asia. Airline president Bill Meehan and vice president of sales and promotions Walter Dias formally announced Continental Micronesia's plans to resume flight services to Korea through a press briefing attended by members of the media, tourism officials and agents in Seoul. The carrier is poised at flying the route using a Boeing 737-800 aircraft, a new state-of-the art airplane, which provides travelers latest technology on comfort and safety.

OPA affirms decision terminating security contract
The Public Auditor yesterday stood pat on its recommendation to terminate the contract entered into by the government with a private security company due to serious violations of existing Commonwealth law on procurement and supply. In its decision on the appeal for reconsideration of its earlier decision, the Public Auditor's Office also called for the issuance of a new solicitation for the project, as it guarantees reimbursement of all the expenses incurred by the company whose contract with the government has been ordered terminated. Earlier, Public Auditor Leo LaMotte ordered rebidding of the contract for the required security services in three tourist sites managed by the Marianas Visitors Authority that was given to The Wackenhut Corporation.

Jun. 14, 2001

Pellegrino: Govt takeover of marina a buyout
Marine Revitalization Corp. president Anthony Pellegrino yesterday clarified the government's proposed takeover of the Outer Cove Marina is a buyout. He issued this statement amid increasing arguments, describing the proposed transfer of the marina's ownership to the Commonwealth as a bailout. Pellegrino's reactions follow comments solicited by Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider's House Bill 12-371 or the Marina Act. The MRC president said the proposed acquisition could only be justifiably called a bailout if the Outer Cove Marina project was a failure.

NMI car dealer joins Ford's tire replacement program
Local Ford dealer Joeten Motor Company is participating in the program recently launched by Ford Motor Company to replace all Firestone Wilderness AT tires on its vehicles. Earlier reports said Ford Motor Company plans to replace some 10 to 13 million Firestone tires in its vehicles. The tires have been linked to at least 174 traffic deaths in the United States. The program is the second to last year's replacement of Firestone Radial ATX tires with the Firestone Wilderness AT tires in Ford vehicles. A recent study revealed that the tires "may exhibit an unacceptable risk of tread separation under certain condition", according to a statement released by the Office of the Attorney General.

Are you 18 years or older?

Have you been providing unpaid services to family members?

Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?

If you answer "Yes" to all of these questions, contact WIA at (670) 664-1704/5, 7 & 8 (Saipan), (670) 433-1700 (Tinian), or (670) 532-1701 (Rota). You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.

Dislocated Worker Funding Program

- **U.S. Citizen or Registered Alien**
- **Meet Selective Service Requirements**
- **Have received the required Eligibility for services**
- **Must be 18 years or older**

Category A: General Dislocated Workers. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, form employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

Category B: Plant Closure. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such family close within 180 days; or
3. For purpose of eligibility to receive services other that training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made general announcement that such facility will close.

Category C: Self Employed or Unemployed. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Saipan: (670) 664-1704/1707/1708/1757 • **Fax:** (670) 664-1710
Tinian: (670) 433-1701 • **Rota:** (670) 532-1701
Email: gov.wia@pticom.com

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The market for Russia's weapons

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Sunday, June 10:*

As the atrocities mount in Syria, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has started increasing the pressure on Russia, which, as Syria's biggest weapons supplier, is propping up the regime of dictator Bashar Assad. In a speech in Oslo last week, she said that Russia's refusal to halt this arms trade flies in the face of international efforts to sanction Syria and raises serious concerns in Washington.

It's a principled stance, but it presents a major consistency problem. Even as the administration slams Russian arms exporters for shipping weapons to Syria, the Pentagon is doing a multimillion-dollar business with Russian arms exporters.

The Defense Department contracted a year ago to buy 21 Mi-17 helicopters from Rosoboronexport, a state-owned Russian arms dealer that's heavily involved in the Syrian arms trade. The Mi-17 is sort of like the helicopter equivalent of the AK-47, a reliable and comparatively cheap craft that's unusually suited for the harsh environments of the Middle East. The $375 million contract is to supply helicopters for the Afghan military.

To say this sends a mixed message is an understatement; by continuing to buy Russian weapons even as it calls for Russia to stop selling weapons to Syria, Washington demonstrates that there will be no consequences if Russia fails to comply. It signals that the U.S. cares more about its mercantile or strategic interests than the human rights of the Syrian people—just as Moscow clearly does.

The Rosoboronexport contract has attracted concern in Congress. In March, a bipartisan group of 17 senators sent a letter to Clinton and Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta urging the Pentagon to review all options for procuring helicopters for Afghanistan through other means; some senators favor buying only American-made choppers. The Pentagon has responded by saying the Russian craft are cheaper, highly versatile in their load-carrying capacity and are already familiar to Afghan pilots and mechanics, who have been using them for decades. (According to a Defense spokeswoman, the Mi-17 was actually designed for use in Afghanistan.)

Opponents of the contract don't think that's good enough. The House version of the defense authorization bill contained an amendment ordering the Government Accountability Office to investigate the helicopter contract and why it was awarded on a "no-bid" basis; a companion amendment is making its way to the Senate floor. We think a full investigation of the alternatives makes sense. If there is any practical way to punish Russia and its arms merchants for their support of Syria, where thousands have been slaughtered by Assad's repressive regime, the U.S. is obliged to pursue it.

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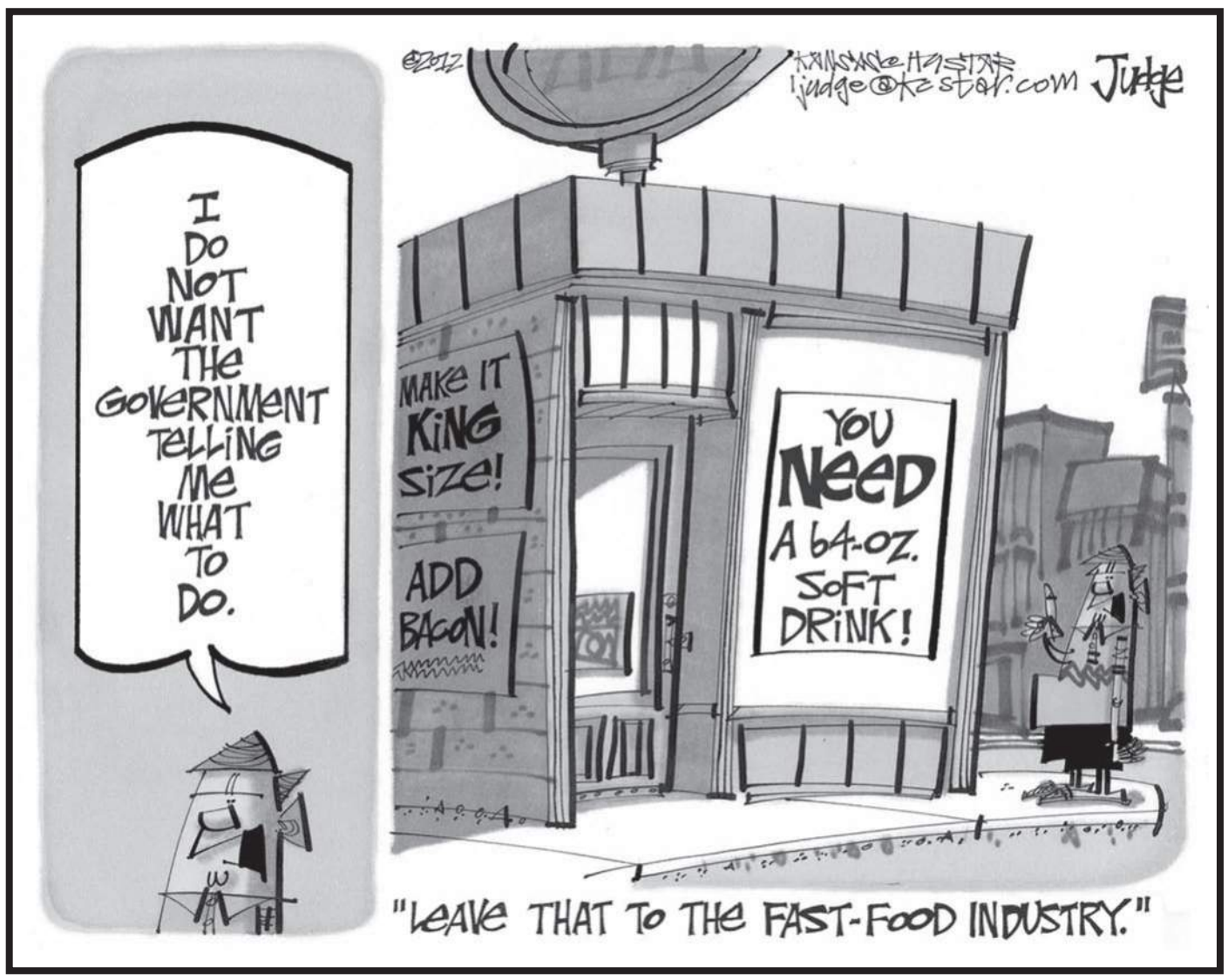
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"LEAVE THAT TO THE FAST-FOOD INDUSTRY."

AutismSpeak spooks

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

When my daughter was diagnosed in 1995 with PDD-NOS, the euphemism for what was then dreaded as autism, and confirmed two years later, she was one out of a thousand children suspected of having the "disability and disorder." Her younger brother two years later followed, and in 1997, he was one out of 700.

When I came to Saipan in 1999, it was down to one child per 500. When I represented Saipan's PACA (Parents' Association Concerned with Autism) in Melbourne, Australia in 2002, the ratio was one for every 400. Five years ago, it was down to a hundred.

The alarming rate today is that one in every 88 children, one of every 54 boys, is afflicted with a clearly "differently-abled" (my term, and for a sympathetic ear on its significance, give the folks at NM-PASI a buzz) neurological challenge; AutismSpeak.org spooks!

We do not mean to treat this matter lightly by making fun of the organization's Internet handle and name. We rather wish to focus on the alarming nature of the evolutionary change that is taking place in our body metabolism, as well as how we relate to it.

The classic three pointers for autism (in my words) are: 1) delayed or arrested language development, 2) auto behavior without seeming consideration and regard for others, and 3) repetitive behavior that are maddeningly circuitous and often destructive.

AutismSpeaks is aggressive in foisting an alarm. It asks parents to watch if their children show "no big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by six months or thereafter," and to ask the pediatrician or family practitioner for an immediate evaluation. The following symptoms are listed:

- No back-and-forth sharing of sounds, smiles, or other facial expressions by nine months or thereafter;
- No babbling by 12 months;
- No back-and-forth gestures, such as pointing, showing, reaching, or waving by 12 months;
- No words by 16 months;
- No two-word meaningful phrases (without imitating or repeating) by 24 months.

My daughter is now 18 and my son, 15. They address me as just "father," objectively and perhaps, unconsciously sounding cold. Their conditions occasioned the collapse of a marriage, and I have masochistically and cowardly located myself as far away as possible from the aches and pains of being an unwelcome former half of a once hopeful union.

To sublimate, I have not been distant from the fellowship of families of children similarly situated. Vivian, Frank and Nicolas, and their family, along with other families, provided collegiality. But something about the current ratio is more than just alarming. Something radical is clearly happening with our bodies, thus also with our minds. The brain-mind studies on neurology are back to the unmistakable embodiment of our mental electrical fields.

The news that the brain size of people in the United States has grown bigger either through improved nutrition, or physical inactivity, though still involving intense mental energy, gives us pause. The high incidence of obesity in America, a cause of alarm that even got the active attention of the White House first lady (which secretly delights me to no end since I come off as size "petite" in comparison whenever I make a continental landfall), should be a serious item in our inventory of current human physiology.

Now comes news that the heart, which we have so far considered as metaphorically the seat of emotion, is actually a physiological entity with its own neurological integrity. Evidence now points to intuitive intelligence actually resident in the heart. Neuro-cardiologists have discovered that the heart operates its own nervous system independent of the brain's electro-magnetic field. Its complex circuitry reportedly generates up to 60 times the electrical amplitude of the brain.

The training of the brain has been the focus of education, primarily involving language clothed in the alphabet and its corresponding phonetics for the English language, pictographs and characters for the *Hanja*, and the patterns of mathematics with its equations and ratios of sums to its parts. Memory work of word shape and sound is the result, and the passing of standardized test the method of gauging the educated.

In counseling test takers (last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the middle and high school students of China went on a testing seclusion to determine who gets to a university and who ends up in vocational training), I often tell folks to trust their intuition and mark the first insight they have of an answer to a question. It has served me well in the numerous standard tests I have taken in my professional career.

It is now rued that "the heart guides us in much of what we do, but often we allow our brains or our unmanaged emotions to take the lead role in our decision-making and later regret our choices."

If we look at autism with our brains, we get into the PSS/SPED mode of pursuing the minimum requirements of "free and appropriate public education"; looking at the same with the patterns and rhythms of the heart provides a different reading.

Time to move autism from the column of spook to the side of acceptance, compassion, concern, and ordinary human care. Take heart. Then, mind.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

India's cold shoulder

By JONATHAN E. HILLMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

There's a party in the Asia Pacific, and the United States wants India to be its date. As U.S. foreign policy "pivots" away from the Middle East and Europe and toward Asia, U.S. officials are doing everything they can to cozy up to the nation that Mark Twain once called "the cradle of the human race."

America's courtship—a bipartisan effort—has included the great-power equivalent of sending flowers (civil nuclear technology under George W. Bush), chocolates (more than $8 billion in U.S. arms during the last decade) and love letters (India is the only state deemed a "strategic partner" in the Pentagon's most recent strategy review).

The flirting has lasted so long that U.S. officials are starting to recycle old pickup lines. Quoting former President Clinton, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said while visiting New Delhi last week: "India and America are natural allies, two nations conceived in liberty, each finding strength in its diversity, each seeing in the other a reflection of its own aspiration for a more humane and just world."

The attraction is undeniable. India is the world's largest democracy, a rising economic power and a potential counterweight to Chinese influence in Asia. There's only one problem with America's entreaties: India is nowhere near saying yes.

Before Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sits down with Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna on Wednesday in Washington for the third meeting of the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue, U.S. officials would be wise to take a hard look at the outcome of past overtures.

In our zeal to improve relations with India, we've undermined our own nuclear nonproliferation efforts. Giving India nuclear technology without making it a party to the nonproliferation treaty created a double standard that encourages a dangerous, alternative path for aspiring nuclear powers. In April, for example, as U.S. officials were warning North Korea against its planned missile launch and criticizing Iran for its lack of transparency, India launched its own long-range, nuclear-capable missile.

As India's nuclear capabilities grow, so does Pakistan's paranoia. In response to India's April test, Pakistan launched its own nuclear-capable missile six days later and has since conducted four more tests. Worried about falling behind India in nuclear arms, Pakistan is racing toward the completion of its fourth nuclear reactor and has doubled the size of its nuclear arsenal since 2006, according to estimates by the Federation of American Scientists and the Institute for Science and International Security.

India has also made a habit of abandoning the United States at the international altar. In 2011, the year after President Obama announced support for giving India a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, India voted with the United States only about 33 percent of the time in the United Nations General Assembly. In its temporary seat on the U.N. Security Council, India often sides with Russia and China, who dismiss international efforts to protect human rights as meddling in other nations' domestic affairs.

To be sure, the United States and India have made progress on a number of strategic fronts, expanding joint military exercises and exchanges, for example. But overall, relations consistently fall short of the warm-and-fuzzy rhetoric that U.S. leaders of all political stripes have grown accustom to voicing.

Rather than continue their charm offensive, U.S. officials should push India to articulate its view of the U.S.-India partnership and India's larger role in the international community. The South Asian power has expressed its intent to become a leading global power, but it has shied from assuming responsibilities that come with the territory.

Getting a clearer picture of India's intentions will allow U.S. officials to recalibrate expectations about where the relationship stands and where it is heading. Like the overhyped "reset" in relations with Russia, unrealistic expectations about U.S. relations with India only make it harder to manage tensions when they arise. India is not Russia, of course, but neither is it a traditional ally like Britain, and when it comes to the Asia Pacific, it's also not Australia, Japan or South Korea.

If necessary, U.S. officials should also consider introducing some sticks into what has largely been a carrot buffet of diplomacy. The United States has significant leverage on a number of issues important to India, such as sharing aerospace and defense technology. Further U.S. assistance in these areas should be contingent upon India's support for top U.S. foreign policy priorities such as tightening sanctions against Iran and funding and training Afghanistan's security forces.

Approached correctly, India can still become a key ally in advancing U.S. strategy in the Asia Pacific. But forging a stronger partnership requires first admitting that America's love for India remains largely unrequited.

Jonathan E. Hillman is a research associate at the Council on Foreign Relations. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Moscow and Washington hold key to Syria's future

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer*, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

My recent trip to Lebanon and Qatar made clear a dismal truth about Syria's future: The regime's brutality, along with Russian blindness and U.S. hesitation, is pushing Syria toward a disaster no one wants.

Syria is sinking into a sectarian war that will produce a regime controlled by Islamists. It didn't have to be that way, and that ending could still be avoided. But unless Moscow wakes up, and Washington takes a more active role, that outcome looks all too likely, with dangerous repercussions for the entire Middle East.

To understand why, one must look at opportunities missed in the past and still not seized today.

"What went wrong?" asks Wissam Tarif, a well-known Lebanese human-rights activist who is also a prominent supporter of the Syrian opposition. "At first, the resistance was peaceful," Tarif told me in Beirut. "But after seven months of killing, torturing ... by August 2011 things changed."

Indeed, even recently, many Syrian resisters—middle-class bureaucrats, professionals, and students—tried to retain the nonviolent approach that characterized the early resistance.

One of my most poignant conversations in Lebanon was with Omar Shaker, a Syrian student. He is now on the run because he helped document his government's destruction of an entire quarter of the Syrian city of Homs, called Baba Amr, in February. He uses an alias and changes houses every night lest Syrian agents nab him and send him back to Syria to probable death.

Shaker described how young people trapped under Syrian shelling in Baba Amr gradually banded together to tweet and Skype details of the regime's mass murder of civilians; they managed to smuggle in a satellite dish to expand their reporting.

This young man, in T-shirt and jeans, looking like an average American college student, told me quietly, "My job was to document people who died of torture."

Shaker's message: The revolt in Homs (and elsewhere in Syria) turned violent only after the Syrian military attacked massive, peaceful demonstrations; this ultimately provoked defections from the Syrian army and the formation of the so-called Free Syrian Army to defend civilians under attack.

However, once armed resistance began, Shaker and others say, the main sources of outside funds were Islamists. The Muslim Brotherhood, banned in Syria in 1982, had many wealthy exiles living abroad who could contribute. Adds Tarif, "The Gulf states opened the mosques to collect funds for the Brotherhood and the (hard-line Islamist) salafis."

As popular anger at the killing of civilians grows within Syria, Islamists can find fertile ground for their message—combined with the fact that they have money.

"Now many people grow beards because they want the money (for weapons and survival)," says Shaker. "In Syria people are moderate, but they want to end this regime, and they would take money from the devil."

The longer the fight goes on, and the longer Islamist groups are the main source of funds, the stronger the growth of these movements inside Syria. And the greater the danger that Syrian rebels may feel compelled to welcome Arab jihadis to join the battle. Even members of al-Qaida in Iraq.

If the West remains indecisive, warns Tarif, "it gives space for Islamists to take part. If (there is going to be) militarization of the opposition, you can't allow Islamists to take all." I heard this warning echoed repeatedly by Syrian activists and experts during my trip.

However, the Obama administration has been understandably reluctant to get involved in another Middle East military struggle. Washington has left it to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey to funnel a (so far) limited amount of weapons to the Syrian opposition. All three of these countries support Salafi or Brotherhood groups.

Of course, an alternative to all-out Syrian war would be a diplomatic solution that forced President Bashar al-Assad to step down in favor of a transitional government, leading to elections. The slim prospect for such a solution does not rest with former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who is still trying to revive a peace plan that is dead.

The sole chance for such an outcome lies with Moscow, Assad's main backer. But, despite some rhetorical feints, the Kremlin refuses to recognize that Assad is a goner.

"Moscow won't push for regime change," I was told by Vitaly Naumkin, director of the prestigious Institute of Oriental Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences. Kremlin officials, who fear losing their sole Mideast ally, are convinced the Assad regime will survive.

The Kremlin is mistaken. The longer the Kremlin sustains the Syrian regime, the more it ensures that what comes next will be Islamist and anti-Moscow.

And if the Obama team wants to see a broad, non-Islamist government emerge after the fall of Assad, it needs to find a way to help fund and organize the secular resistance—now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Smoking gun' on Earhart fate still missing

The first Marianas History Conference is underway here on Saipan, thanks to the efforts of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Guam Preservation Trust, and Guampedia. Welcome to all the attendees and presenters.

Among the many items to be discussed at this year's conference is the longstanding question of Amelia Earhart's disappearance someplace in the Pacific in 1937. Many theories have been put forth over the years to explain her disappearance but it is important to note that none are proven. The "smoking gun" of hard, direct evidence has never been found.

One such theorist is TIGHAR, a group devoted to trying to prove the hypothesis that Earhart landed and died on Gardner Island, (now called Nikamororo). While TIGHAR businessmen have sent some of their employees and contractors to Saipan to deliver a paper at the History Conference, their theory with its anecdotal evidence is no more, and possibly less, persuasive than any of the dozen or so other theories put forth over the years. I would submit that their attempt to debunk the Earhart on Saipan theory is done solely to further their own pet theory and the millions of dollars in funding that studying that theory has brought them over the years. Repeated trips (10 to date) to Gardner Island (Nikamororo) by TIGHAR has so far yielded nothing of substance provably related to Earhart, navigator Noonan, or their Electra aircraft.

The many stories and eyewitness accounts of Earhart being seen here on Saipan in 1937 are likewise unproven by hard physical evidence, but the idea that Earhart was brought by the Japanese to its Pacific regional headquarters here on Saipan has persisted because of the sheer number of reported sightings and anecdotal stories told and retold.

My own father, at 23 years old, healthy, and of sound mind, was one of those eyewitnesses and told me in detail about seeing a woman and a man of "urupeo" European features (white) disembarking from a Japanese ship at the Garapan Dock, now the commercial port of Saipan in 1937 where he worked as a stevedore loading water. While his account is unpublished and while he did not know Earhart or claim that this was definitely an Earhart and Noonan sighting, the rarity of seeing two white people here then and the "coincidence" of the 1937 summer date adds yet another piece to the intriguing Earhart on Saipan theory.

Rep. Stanley Tudela McGinnis Torres
17th CNMI Legislature, Capital Hill

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

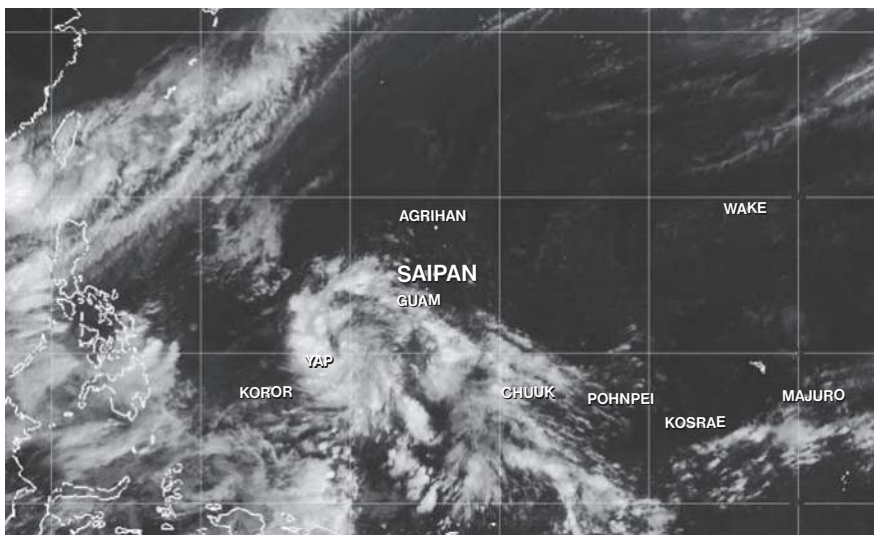
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲61	▼45
Beijing	Showers	▲81	▼63
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼73
London	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Melbourne	Showers	▲56	▼46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼77
New York	Showers	▲73	▼61
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼67
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼59
Pusan	Sunny	▲75	▼67
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼58
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼66
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼62
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Guchol (05W) is centered 150 miles east of Yap at 10N140E with maximum sustained winds near 40 mph. Guchol is moving west at 8 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are present within 175 miles of the center. Converging winds farther to the southeast are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Chuuk within 110 miles of a line from 10N147E to 1N149E. Scattered showers are found south of Chuuk to south of Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 5N152E to EQ157E. For more detailed information on Tropical Storm Guchol, see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the NWS under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. An upper-level low is centered west of the northern CNMI near 14N139E. This system is enhancing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over much of the Marianas within 135 miles of a line from 14N138E to 11N148E. A monsoon trough stretches southeastward from the Philippines through 8N130E to end within Tropical Storm Guchol. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough west and south of Koror or south of a line from 9N130E to 1N139E. Low level convergence is causing scattered showers south of the Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 2N165E to 5N172E to 4N177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:36 AM	2:23 PM
Friday	2:15 AM	3:11 PM
Saturday	2:56 AM	4:01 PM
Sunday	3:40 AM	4:50 PM
Monday	4:26 AM	5:40 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Counting of 2012 Liberation Queen tickets on June 30

»Five candidates make first public appearance at Pistang Pinoy

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The five young candidates vying for the 2012 Liberation Queen title are flanked by female officers and members of the United Filipino Organization during the *Pistang Pinoy* event held at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe on June 10.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The tickets sold by the 2012 Liberation Queen candidates will be counted on June 30, a Saturday, to determine who will wear the coveted crown, according to Liberation Queen committee chair Tina Concepcion.

Concepcion said yesterday that the counting will be the first and the last for the five Liberation Queen hopefuls, who were each given 100 booklets to sell.

Yesterday, Concepcion issued to the candidates' parents 100 more booklets to be sold. Tickets cost $1 each or $5 per booklet containing six tickets.

This year's candidates, who were formally introduced to the public in a pinning ceremony last Friday, are Carmelyn Agulto, Loria Dee Ada Hocog, Maria Angelica Malasarte, Lydee Rose Sablan Pangelinan, and Susanne Park.

The five young ladies made their first public appearance at the *Pistang Pinoy* (Filipino Fiesta) hosted by the United Filipino Organization on June 10 at the Civic Center Beach Park.

Accompanied by Concepcion, the Liberation Queen candidates waved miniature Philippine flags as they went on stage to be introduced to the crowd.

"For some of the candidates, it was their first time to attend the event and it was a great experience for them," Concepcion told Saipan Tribune.

According to Concepcion, the young ladies are starting to get to know each other and becoming more open, despite the limited time they have to bond with one another.

To give the Liberation Queen candidates more publicity, they will be granting interviews to radio stations on island and making an appearance at the Garapan Street Market on Thursdays.

"I want them to be more exposed and it will be a good experience for them," said Concepcion, adding that a plan involving a visit to Managaha for fun and recreation is also in the offing.

After the counting of tickets on June 30, the 2012 Liberation Queen will be crowned on July 2, at 7pm at the festival grounds.

"We encourage the public to support our five young and beautiful candidates by buying their tickets," added Concepcion.

For more information about the 2012 Liberation Queen pageant, call 234-6208.

JG SABLAN SUES DPL

Legal battle that began in 2006 continues

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc. has filed a lawsuit against the Department of Public Lands over their legal dispute that began in 2006 when DPL terminated JG Sablan's mining permit.

JG Sablan, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, filed last week in the Superior Court a petition for judicial review of DPL's order refusing JG Sablan's request to reconsider the termination of its mining permit.

JG Sablan asked the court to declare DPL's refusal to reconsider the termination of the permit to be unlawful.

Dotts said that acting DPL secretary Pedro I. Itibus' order is final and is prejudicial to JG Sablan and constitutes a sanction.

In a letter to Dotts dated May 3, 2012, Itibus informed him that DPL considers JG Sablan's permit void. The letter was in response to JG Sablan's motion to amend DPL's administrative order or, in the alternative, for reconsideration.

Itibus told Dotts that the CNMI courts have upheld the May 3, 2006, notice of termination.

"The fact that the courts invalidated some of the reasons provided does not render the original decision excessive or arbitrary," Itibus said.

According to Dotts, in JG Sablan's petition for judicial review, then DPL secretary John DelRosario issued a notice declaring JG Sablan's mining permit terminated and void.

The permit supposedly allowed the company to mine pozzolan and basalt on the island of Pagan for 20 years.

In response to the notice, JG Sablan asked for an agency hearing, and on Aug. 1, 2006, DPL issued an administrative decision that affirmed all seven grounds in the notice and on that basis declared the permit void.

JG Sablan appealed to the Superior Court.

Dotts said that, on Dec. 31, 2008, the Superior Court granted summary judgment to DPL, but the court struck down three of the seven reasons that DPL had relied on to justify the termination of the permit.

JG Sablan then went to the Supreme Court.

On March 30, 2012, the Supreme Court affirmed the Superior Court's decision, but struck down an additional ground for termination of the permit.

Dotts said the judicial review of the administrative decision only affirmed two out of the seven grounds supporting termination of the permit: the failure to have a development plan and the failure to pay past due royalties.

A third ground, Dotts said, that JG Sablan had allegedly strayed out of the area covered by the permit, was not decided on by the Supreme Court.

Dotts said that given that majority of the reasons DPL had relied on in 2006 to justify the termination of the permit had been found by judicial review to have been improper, JG Sablan on April 27, 2012 sought reconsideration of the remedy of termination before DPL.

On May 3, 2012, DPL, through Itibus, denied reconsideration.

"The order refusing to reconsider the remedy of termination when the majority of reasons justifying termination had been found improper was arbitrary and capricious and otherwise improper," the lawyer said.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy birthday to Irma Dela Rosa, who celebrated her birthday last June 8. We wish you all the happiness in life. Keep being healthy and may you have more birthdays to come. Greetings come from the staff and management of Hotel Sun Palace and Makeover Beauty Salon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Lupe Kaipat, who is celebrating her special day today, June 14! May you enjoy your day and God bless you with many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from your friends and families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Analyn Tala, Milo Carlos, Shirley Darantinao, and Gemma Kim. May this birthday of yours bring you good luck, fortune and friendship. Make the most of your big day today. Happy birthday to all of you! Greetings come from Shirley's Coffee Shop employees.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB12-DPS/RBS-059

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 09, 2012 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) 2011/2012 90HP OUTBOARD MOTOR ENGINES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – BOATING SAFETY SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, ***LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB12-DPS/RBS-083

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 09, 2012 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A 2011/2012 PERSONAL WATERCRAFT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – BOATING SAFETY SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO
ACTING COMMISIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MEETING NOTICE

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

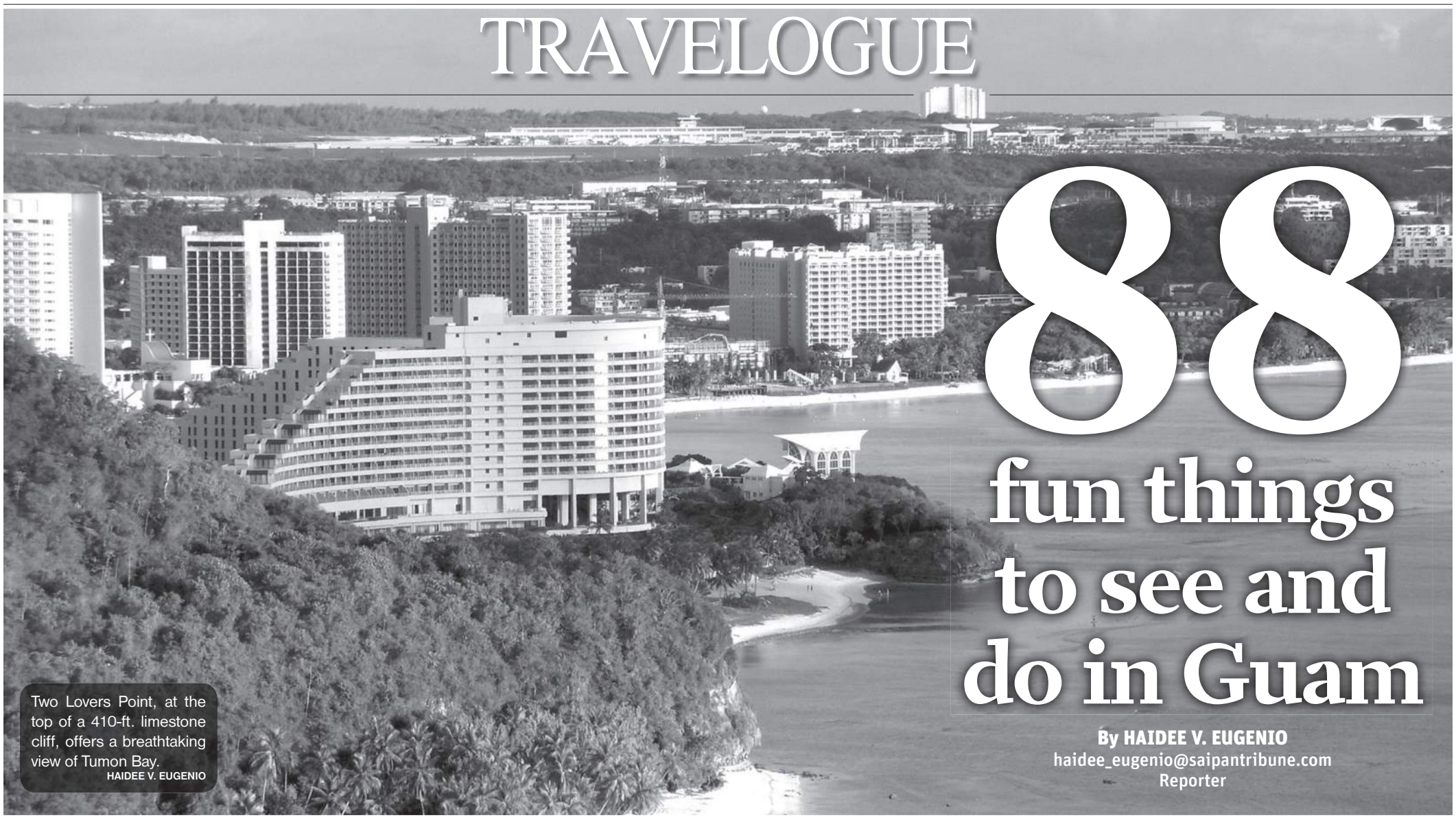
Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Board of Directors** Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.** at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes – May 3, 2012
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance
   2. Personnel
4) **Old Business**
   1. Tourism Master Plan
5) **New Business**
   1. Renewal option for AMG Japan
   2. Email Poll Ratification
      a. AMG Asia
      b. Russia Market
6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
   1. General Membership Meeting
7) **Executive Session**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

TRAVELOGUE



Two Lovers Point, at the top of a 410-ft. limestone cliff, offers a breathtaking view of Tumon Bay.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

88 fun things to see and do in Guam

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
Reporter

First of a five-part series

Whether you've traveled many or a few miles to arrive on Guam shores, you will be treated to a Hafa Adai welcome that's as warm as the tropical weather. Guam, "Where America's day begins," is an unincorporated U.S. territory and is the only Micronesian island dotted in most world maps.

Even at only 212 square miles, Guam is packed with offerings of monochromatic blue waters, swaying palm trees, white sand beaches, lush vegetation, striking landscapes, hidden waterfalls, fortresses from different eras, a hodgepodge of cultures, and just enough urban jungle.

This is not an exhaustive list, but just a sampling of fun things to see and do in Guam, and only from the viewpoint of someone who has stayed on its neighbor island of Saipan for quite a number of years.

1 Chamorro Village along Hagatna Bay. You know you've come to the right place when you start smelling the aroma of barbecued chicken and pork, made more inviting by large doses of island music, Chamorro cultural dances, local arts and crafts, a hodgepodge of cultural and commercial servings, and the evening ocean breeze. This is "the" place to be especially on Wednesday nights. It could become too crowded, though, and you'd have difficulty finding parking space.

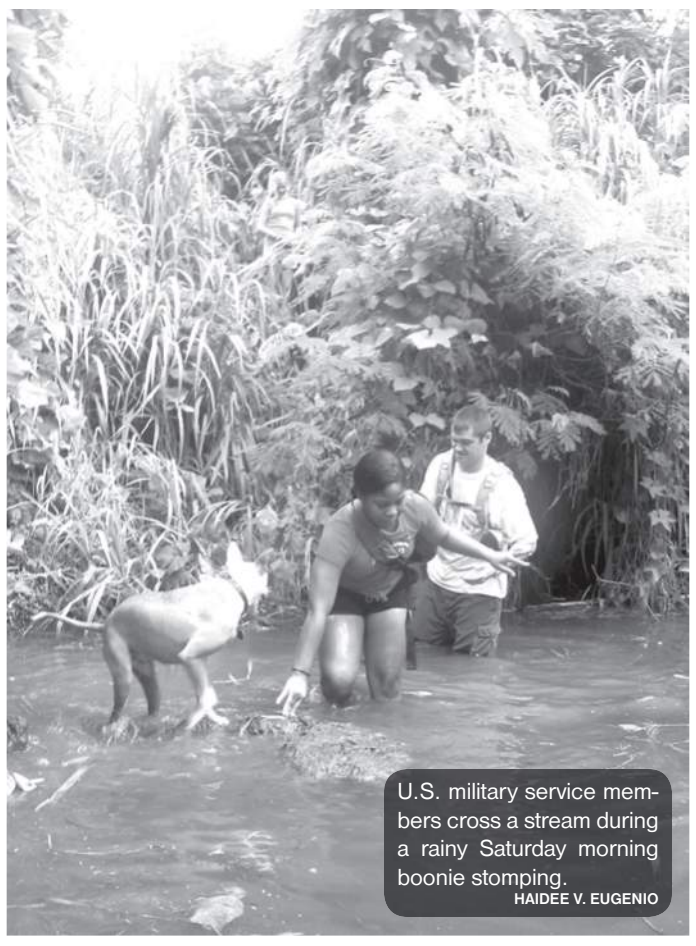
Partake in good servings of Chamorro, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Jamaican, Greek, Mexican and American cuisine at inexpensive prices. Since you're in Guam, try to get the flavor of local Chamorro shrimp and chicken kelaguen and barbecue with red rice. It's also a good place to shop for souvenirs and gifts.

2 Two Lovers Point north of Tumon Bay. A scenic coastal lookout with an intriguing legend, Two Lovers Point or *Puntan Dos Amantes* is at the top of a 410-foot limestone cliff just north of Tumon Bay. This is an attraction you don't want to miss because it is one of the best places to really see Guam's beauty.

Legends have it that this jagged cliff was where two young Chamorro lovers entwined their hair and leapt to their deaths to be "together forever." The woman's wealthy family objected to her romance with a lowly Chamorro warrior, as the woman was promised by her family to marry a Spanish captain.

Today, the site offers a breathtaking view of Tumon Bay. To access the cliff-top point, you must pay a few dollars at a nearby snack bar. Romantic—and sometimes superstitious—couples could also write messages on tags and padlocks or "love-locks," attach them to the fence, and throw away the key. The same practice is done in many parts of the world, in reverence to couple's love and devotion. Two Lovers Point has also become a popular spot for weddings.

3 Sella Bay and Overlook. This tranquil and remote bay was the site of a leper colony in Spanish times. Located near the coast are a Spanish bridge and oven built in the 19th century. The Sella Bay Overlook, high above Guam's southern end, offers breathtaking views of Mt. Lamlam to the east, Sella Bay to the west, and Cocos Island to the south. The area between Sella Bay and Cetti Bay is a popular destination for hikers and campers.



U.S. military service members cross a stream during a rainy Saturday morning boonie stomping.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

4 Carabao statues. If you haven't seen one alive, at least you could see carabao or water buffalo statues in Guam's main tourist areas.

5 Boonie stomping every Saturday morning. Joining the Boonie Stompers has got to be one of the best ways to explore and rediscover Guam. Boonie Stompers, a non-profit group committed to protecting Guam's unique heritage, offers guided hikes to a variety of destinations such as waterfalls, mountains, caves, beaches, snorkeling sites, latte sites, historic sites, and World War II spots.

Boonie stomping is one of my favorite Saturday morning activities in Guam regardless of the amount of partying the night before. Hiking the way locals do not only puts your stamina to the test but does not fail to amaze that adventurous spirit in you. Immersing yourself in the great outdoors and reveling in nature's beauty might just be what the doctor ordered after a stressful workweek.

The hikes are classified into the following categories: Easy, medium, difficult and very difficult.

The meet-up time is 9am on Saturdays in the Center Court of Chamorro Village in Hagatna. The last time I joined, the fee was $2. But there's no reservation required. Just put on your hiking shoes, show up, and you'll be part of the team.

6 Merizo massacre sites and cooling off at Priest's Pool. The very first time I joined Guam Boonie Stompers, the scheduled hike was categorized as "easy," involving a 1.5-mile hike that lasted some three hours.

It started with a hike to Tinta and Faha and ended up at Priest's Pool. Tinta and Faha are two somber historic sites of importance to the local people because these were where Japanese troops stationed in Merizo massacred two groups of Chamorros during the tail end of the Japanese occupation of the island. When the atrocities were over, 46 Chamorros "were slaughtered with grenades, bayonets, and sabers." Some escaped death by fleeing or lying still under the corpses of their relatives and friends.

According to written accounts, when word of the massacres got to villagers, seven Merizo men killed 10 Japanese soldiers and drove the rest from the village. This made Merizo "the first village on Guam to be liberated, and the only one to be liberated by the Chamorros themselves."

It was raining that Saturday when the Boonie Stompers took us on a hike to Tinta and Faha, so the trails were muddy and slippery. We were walking in the rain, and we had to cross a few streams, including one that was almost waist-deep and the current strong.

Just like that scene in the movie *Forrest Gump* when it

Continued on Next Page

Dozens walk the trail to Tinta and Faha Caves and on to Priest's Pool as part of a Saturday morning boonie stomping, which takes participants to Guam's historic and cultural sites.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A woman jumps into Priest's Pool as other hikers look on after a trek to historical sites.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

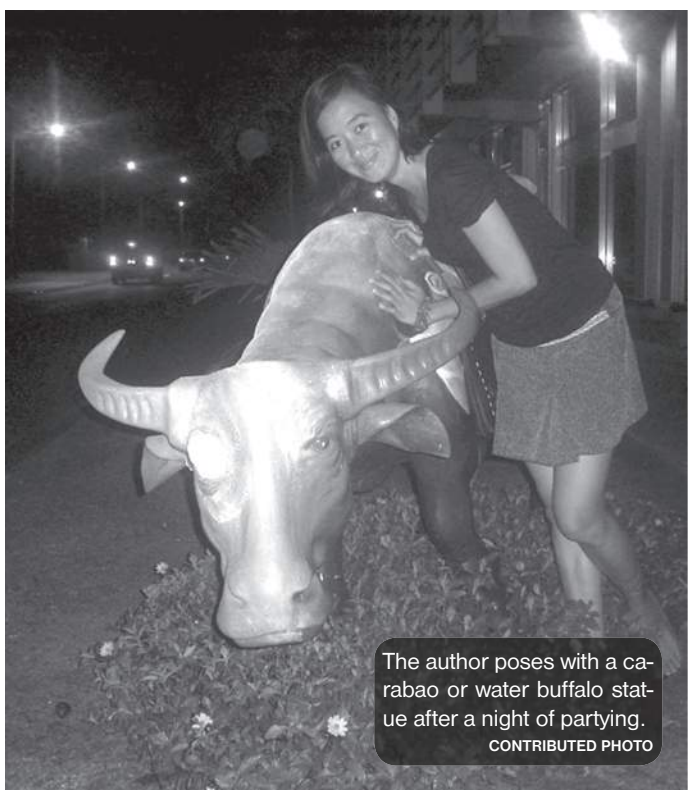
From Page 14

felt like somebody just switched off the faucet to stop the rain, we started walking under the sun after walking in the rain for too long. The reward was the freshwater pools of the Pigua River. The particular spot we went to is called Priest's Pool. Mostly U.S. military personnel dove into the pool to cool off, while others were content watching their stunts and marveling at the natural beauty.

Even though it wasn't an "easy" hike as advertised, it was all worth it—learning about a piece of Guam history and being taken to the island's hidden gems.

7 Bear Rock. From afar, this natural rock formation at Agfayan Point in Inarajan resembles a giant bear sitting and looking toward the horizon. It surely is the most obvious animal-like formation in Guam. We didn't go anywhere near Bear Rock, but it sure was a nice backdrop for souvenir photos.

8 Ypao Beach Park. This is one of Guam's most popular recreational beach and park for picnics and barbecues, sporting activities, concerts and other community events. Located at the southern end of Tumon Bay, this sprawling beach park boasts of great spots for snorkeling.



The author poses with a carabao or water buffalo statue after a night of partying.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

9 Plaza de Espana in Hagatna. Travel back in time as you visit these spacious grounds and Spanish ruins that used to serve as the Governor's Palace from 1969 until the invasion of World War II. Most of Plaza de Espana was destroyed during the shelling of Hagatna during the retaking of Guam but three structures are still standing, including the three-arch gate to Almacen, the Azotea or back porch, and the Chocolate House.

10 Guam Slingshot. Though I've visited it and seen people's reactions to it, I never had the courage to try it myself. If you're not afraid of vertical exhilaration—talk about heights of 230 feet and speeds of up to 100 mph—then it may be your match.

11 Merizo Bell Tower. Although no longer in use today, the Merizo Bell tower has been well maintained and remains an enduring landmark in the southern part of Guam. Built in 1910 with stone and cement, the bell was used to announce religious events, town meetings, and Masses.

12 Talofofo Beach. This spot is popular among locals for surfing, bodyboarding, picnics, and soaking up the sun, but not an ideal place for snorkeling and swimming. It also boasts of black sandy shores. Located within Talofofo Bay along Guam's southeastern shoreline in the village of Talofofo, this beach provides visitors with picnic shelter, barbecue pits, showers, and restroom facilities.

13 Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica. The Dulce Nombre de Maria or Sweet Name of Mary Cathedral-Basilica is not only the first Catholic Church in Guam but is also one of the centerpieces of the island's religious culture. The structure was built in 1669 and survived until World War II when it was destroyed during the shelling of Hagatna in preparation for the American invasion. The present church was constructed on the original site in 1955-1959 and is worth a visit for its architectural and historical significance.

14 Gun Beach. A very secluded beach past the Nikko Hotel, Gun Beach is named for the anti-aircraft military gun found next to the cliff wall where the stairs to get to Faifai Beach starts.

15 Wild Bill's in Tamuning. Unlike Wild Bill's on Saipan, which serves superb Thai food, Wild Bill's in Guam is just a bar. Some Guam friends love to hang out in this Tamuning spot, and that's how I became familiar with it.

A giant jellyfish at UnderWater World.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A wall of "love locks" and "love tags" at Two Lovers Point, a scenic coastal lookout with an intriguing legend.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

16 San Vitores Martyrdom Shrine. Just off the beach near the Guam Reef Hotel is a striking monument that marks the spot where Chamorro Chief Matapang killed the leader of the first Spanish Jesuit mission—Fr. Diego Luis de San Vitores—for baptizing his daughter without his consent in April 1672.

17 UnderWater World. If you're in Tumon, you won't miss the sign. UnderWater World Guam, one of the longest tunnel-aquariums in the world, gives you that thrill of being submerged beneath 800,000 gallons of saltwater without getting wet.

Opened in 1999, the aquarium has more than 2,000 animals representing more than 80 different species, including more than two dozen sharks, stingrays, turtles, giant groupers, garden eels, giant spider crabs, and jellyfish.

If you show your CNMI driver's license or other CNMI IDs, you could get a discount on your entrance fee.

In the evening, UnderWater World Guam is transformed into the Kaitei Lounge, offering exotic cocktails, rare ambiance of music and beautiful colors amidst the scenic vistas found in the sea.

18 Statue of Liberty in Hagatna. Unknown to many, there is a replica of the Statue of Liberty at Paseo de Susana at the entrance of Hagatna harbor. It is visible to boats approaching the island as with its New York counterpart. The Boy Scouts of America built the statue in 1950 in observance of their 40th anniversary. Although it is less impressive than the original, the State of Liberty in Guam—just like its inspiration—was a gift, and represents the same ideals of truth, liberty and freedom.

To be continued.

Business

Spain borrowing cost crisis: Rate at euro-era high

MADRID (AP)—Spain's benchmark borrowing rate hit its highest level Tuesday since the country adopted the euro currency, after ratings agency Fitch downgraded 18 banks on Tuesday and investors continued to find more questions than answers in the country's decision to seek help for its ailing bank sector by tapping a (EURO)100 billion ($125 billion) eurozone bailout fund.

The yield on Spain's 10-year bond yield rose to hit 6.81 percent in afternoon trading, according to data provider FactSet, while stocks seesawed between positive and negative territory and ended the day almost unchanged, up 0.1 percent.

The bond rate seen as a measure of a nation's financial health fell back to 6.67 when markets closed. That's the same level as Spain's previous record—set on May 30 as the country's economic woes multiplied, and last November after the then-ruling Socialist Party was ousted by the conservative Popular Party now struggling to keep the national afloat financially. This brings Spain's borrowing costs dangerously high to 7 percent—close to the level at which Greece, Ireland and Portugal sought international bailouts.

Spain agreed last weekend to take a European bailout for its banks, tapping into a (EURO)100 billion ($125 billion) euro area bailout fund, but investors are worried it will not solve the country's problem as the government may have trouble paying the money back.

Fitch said in a statement that its downgrade of the banks was a result of a previous downgrade of the Spanish sovereign debt on June 7. Fitch said it had conducted stress tests, both on the Spanish banking sector as a whole and on individual banks, updating results from tests done in 2011.

The ratings agency said the weakness of the Spanish economy would continue to have a negative effect on business volumes "which, together with low interest rates, will place pressure on revenues."

There has been growing concern that an increasingly large amount of Spanish government debt is being bought by its banks as the country finds fewer and fewer international buyers for its bonds. As Spain's banks continue to struggle, weighed down by their toxic property loans and assets, the government is finding it increasingly harder to sell its bonds.

More than seven in 10 US teens jobless in summer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Once a rite of passage to adulthood, summer jobs for teens are disappearing.

Fewer than three in 10 American teenagers now hold jobs such as running cash registers, mowing lawns or busing restaurant tables from June to August. The decline has been particularly sharp since 2000, with employment for 16-to-19-year olds falling to the lowest level since World War II.

And teen employment may never return to pre-recession levels, suggests a projection by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The drop in teen employment, steeper than for other age groups, is partly a cultural shift. More youths are spending summer months in school, at music or learning camps or in other activities geared for college. But the decline is especially troubling for teens for whom college may be out of reach, leaving them increasingly idle and with few options to earn wages and job experience.

Older workers, immigrants and debt-laden college graduates are taking away lower-skill work as they struggle to find their own jobs in the weak economy. Upper-income white teens are three times as likely to have summer jobs as poor black teens, sometimes capitalizing on their parents' social networks for help.

Overall, more than 44 percent of teens who want summer jobs don't get them or work fewer hours than they prefer.

"It's really frustrating," said Colleen Knaggs, describing her fruitless efforts to find work for the past two years. The 18-year-old graduated from high school last week in Flagstaff, Ariz., the state that ranks highest in the share of U.S. teens who are unable to get the summer work they desire, at 58 percent.

Wanting to be better prepared to live on her own and to save for college, Knaggs says she submitted a dozen applications for summer cashier positions. She was turned down for what she believes was her lack of connections and work experience. Instead of working this summer, she'll now be babysitting her 10-year-old brother, which has been the extent of her work so far, aside from volunteering at concession stands.

"I feel like sometimes they don't want to go through the training," said Knaggs, who is now bracing for a heavier debt load when she attends college in the fall.

Economists say teens who aren't getting jobs are often those who could use them the most. Many are not moving on to more education.

New Internet suffix bids include '.lol,' 'bank.'

NEW YORK (AP)—If Google has its way, you won't need to type "Google.com" any more to do your searches. You can simply access the search engine at ".Google."

Google's bid for ".Google" as an Internet suffix is among about 2,000 proposals submitted as part of the largest expansion of the Internet address system since its creation in the 1980s. Google Inc. also wants to add ".YouTube" and ".lol"—the digital shorthand for "laugh out loud." Others want approval for ".doctor," ".music" and ".bank."

If approved, the new suffixes would rival ".com" and about 300 others now in use. Companies would be able to create separate websites and separate addresses for each of their products and brands, for instance, even as they keep their existing ".com" name. One day, you might go to "comedy.YouTube" rather than "YouTube.com/comedy."

The organization behind the expansion, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, will announce in London on Wednesday which suffixes have been proposed. Google and a handful of other companies disclosed some of their bids ahead of time. Most proposals, however, remain a mystery.

From a technical standpoint, the names let Internet-connected computers know where to send email and locate websites. But they've come to mean much more. Amazon.com Inc., for instance, has built its brand around the domain name.

The expansion will allow suffixes that represent hobbies, ethnic groups, corporate brand names and more.

It'll take at least a year or two, however, for ICANN to approve the first of these new suffixes. It could take a few months longer for them to appear in use.

Some of them never will if they are found to violate trademarks or are deemed offensive. Others will be delayed as competing bidders quarrel over easy-to-remember words such as ".web." When multiple applications seek the same suffix, ICANN will encourage parties to work out an agreement. ICANN will hold an auction if the competing bidders fail to reach a compromise.

The expansion, already several years in the works, had been delayed by more than a month this spring because of technical glitches with the application system.

Nation

Penn State witness says he saw shower assault

BELLEFONTE, Pa. (AP)—A former Penn State assistant coach who was a central figure in Joe Paterno's downfall testified Tuesday that he heard a "skin-on-skin smacking sound" in a campus locker room one night in 2001 and saw something that was "more than my brain could handle."

Jerry Sandusky was standing naked in the showers behind a boy, slowly moving his hips, Mike McQueary told the jury.

McQueary, one of the star witnesses in the child sexual abuse case against Sandusky, said he had no doubt he was witnessing anal sex. He testified that he slammed his locker shut loudly as if to say, "Someone's here! Break it up!"

Then, he said, he went upstairs to his office to try to make sense of what he had seen.

Sandusky, 68, is on trial on charges he molested 10 boys over a 15-year period. Authorities say he abused them in hotels, at his home and inside the football team's quarters. The former assistant coach and founder of an acclaimed youth charity has denied the allegations.

Paterno was fired last fall, shortly after Sandusky's arrest, when it became known that McQueary had told the head football coach about the shower episode a decade ago. Two months after his dismissal, Paterno died of lung cancer at 85.

McQueary was composed during his testimony, and when asked if he knew Sandusky, he looked right at him with a sharp glance that Sandusky returned.

McQueary's account differed little from the one he gave in December at a preliminary hearing for two Penn State administrators charged with failing to report the shower episode to authorities. One difference: He said it took place in 2001 instead of 2002.

Sandusky attorney Karl Rominger pressed McQueary during cross-examination about discrepancies in his estimate of the boy's age.

McQueary replied: "If (you) want to argue about 9, 10, 11, 12 ... the fact is he had sex with a minor, a boy."

Testifying on Day 2 of Sandusky's trial, McQueary said that he went to the football team building one night and walked into the support staff locker room to put away a pair of new sneakers. As he entered the locker room, he said, he heard a noise.

"Very much skin-on-skin smacking sound," he said. "I immediately became alert and was kind of embarrassed that I was walking in on something."

AP

Penn State University assistant football coach Mike McQueary arrives at the Centre County Courthouse to testify in the child sexual abuse trial of former Penn State University assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky in Bellefonte, Pa., Tuesday, June 12, 2012.

Obama doesn't emphasize issues he fought hard for

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Fighting for re-election, President Barack Obama is playing down his historic health care overhaul and the multibillion-dollar recession-fighting stimulus—two landmark efforts of his first three years in office. Those signature policies are unpopular, and voters clearly want the candidates to focus instead on jobs.

Dealing with a slow-moving economy, Obama is imploring voters to stick with him through tough times while promising that better days lie ahead—with him, not Republican foe Mitt Romney. The selling of Obama's first term, however, isn't so simple.

The president can't tell voters about a grand economic comeback story because there isn't one to tell. In foreign affairs, he can't declare outright victory in Iraq and Afghanistan so he promotes the ending of a "decade under the dark cloud of war." Health care reform, his most prominent legislative achievement, is unpopular with many voters and could be struck down by the Supreme Court this month.

Obama's re-election slogan—"Forward"—aims to fit the times, offering a sober assessment of a nation trying to turn the page from war and economic turmoil under his watch while implying that Republican Romney would take the country backward.

The president offers a steady drumbeat about a "make-or-break moment" for the middle class and creating a country "where everybody gets a fair shot and everybody is doing their fair share."

Speaking at a fundraiser in Philadelphia's Franklin Institute, Obama said Republicans have a dearth of ideas and will offer the same economic prescriptions that preceded the most recent recession.

ACROSS THE NATION

Woman dies, 14 kids treated in day care van crash

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—A woman died Tuesday when a day care van crashed into a tree in Louisville, and more than a dozen children and the driver were taken to the hospital, authorities said. Three of the 14 children sent for treatment were reported in critical condition along with the driver, officials said. Police are investigating why the van went out of control before crashing head on into the tree shortly after 5 p.m. EDT, Louisville police spokeswoman Alicia Smiley said.

George Zimmerman's wife charged with perjury

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The wife of Trayvon Martin's shooter was charged with perjury Tuesday, accused of lying when she told a judge that the couple had limited funds during a hearing that resulted in her husband being released on $150,000 bond. Shellie Zimmerman, 25, was released on $1,000 bond on the third-degree felony that is punishable by up to five years in prison and a $5,000 fine. George Zimmerman has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in the teen's slaying and had been out on bond after the April 20 hearing. However, Circuit Judge Kenneth Lester on June 1 revoked the bond and ordered Zimmerman returned to the Seminole County Jail. In a strongly worded ruling, Lester said the Zimmermans lied about how much money they had.

Asia

Death toll passes 20 in Myanmar ethnic violence

SITTWE, Myanmar (AP)—People fled their burning homes and Myanmar's security forces struggled to contain communal violence Tuesday in a western region where state media reported the death toll climbed to 21.

The conflict pitting ethnic Rakhine Buddhists against stateless Rohingya Muslims in coastal Rakhine state marks some of the worst sectarian unrest recorded in Myanmar in years. President Thein Sein has declared an emergency in Rakhine state and warned that the spiraling violence could threaten the democratic reforms tentatively transforming the country after half a century of military rule.

■ ■ ■

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh on Tuesday turned away three boats carrying 1,000 Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in neighboring Myanmar, bringing to 1,500 the number of refugees blocked in recent days, officials said.

"They have been chased away," police official Jahangir Alam said by phone from Saint Martins Island in the Bay of Bengal after the three boats attempted to approach the shore of the island. "We are keeping our eyes open so that nobody can enter Bangladesh illegally."

■ ■ ■

From Friday through Monday, the evening's news report said, 21 people have been killed, 21 wounded and 1,662 houses burned down around Rakhine state. The mass violence started Friday in Maungdaw township, when what was said to be a mob of 1,000 Muslims—described as "terrorists" in the state media—went on a rampage and had to be restrained by armed troops.

The violence afterward spread, including to the state capital, Sittwe.

The television report said the authorities have tried to restore stability but clashes continued and arson had been committed in Sittwe and Maungdaw on Monday.

It added that security forces had to intervene as communal tensions erupted Monday and Tuesday in several parts of Sittwe. An AP journalist saw the corpses of four people killed in the city, though it is not clear they were accounted for in the death toll reported by television.

On Tuesday in Sittwe, police fired live rounds into the air to disperse Rohingyas who could be seen burning homes in one neighborhood. Hordes of people ran to escape the chaos.

"Smoke is billowing from many directions, and we are scared," said Ma Thein, an ethnic Rakhine resident in Sittwe, where dark smoke from numerous fires covered the skyline into the late afternoon. "The government should send in more security forces to protect both communities."

Truckloads of security forces have been deployed in Sittwe, and much of the port city was reported calm, including its main road. But homes were burning in three or four districts that have yet to be pacified.

In one, police fired skyward to separate hundreds-strong mobs wielding sticks and stones; in another, soldiers helped move 1,000 Muslims by trucks to safer areas.

Suu Kyi sets out on first Europe trip in 24 years

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—When Aung San Suu Kyi last saw Europe, it was still divided into the democratic West and communist East. Her homeland of Myanmar was still under oppressive military rule.

The long-time democracy activist set out Wednesday on her first European trip since 1988 to make a long-awaited acceptance speech for the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize and at a time when Myanmar is making tenuous democratic progress.

Her scheduled return to Myanmar by the end of the month gets her back in time to attend the July 4 reconvening of Parliament, which was announced Tuesday night on state television. The parliamentary session will be considering crucial legislation, including media regulation and foreign investment.

Cheerful and energetic at Yangon's airport, Suu Kyi waved to journalists and passengers as she headed to the departure lounge. Asked about her trip, Suu Kyi told reporters she expects it to be eye-opening.

"Each country will be different. I will know how backward (Myanmar) is when I reach the other countries," Suu Kyi said.

For 24 years, the opposition leader was either under house arrest or too fearful that if she left Myanmar, the former military regime would not let her return. She stayed put even as her British husband was dying of cancer in England in 1999.

This will be Suu Kyi's second overseas trip after a recent, five-day tour in Thailand and will be filled with high-profile events bound to burnish Suu Kyi's image as an international political celebrity.

At her first stop in Geneva, Suu Kyi will address Thursday's annual conference of the U.N.'s International Labor Organization. Her next stop is Norway for what is expected to be an emotional acceptance speech of her Nobel prize, 21 years late.

She will briefly stop in Dublin to personally thank U2 frontman Bono for his support over the years. They will share the stage at a Monday concert in her honor organized by Amnesty International.

In England, Suu Kyi will receive the rare honor of addressing both houses of Britain's parliament and will accept an honorary doctorate at Oxford, where she studied and later lived with her husband and sons, Alexander and Kim.

In April 1988, Suu Kyi left her family in England to nurse her dying mother back home.

The daughter of Myanmar's independence hero Gen. Aung San, Suu Kyi got swept into the forefront of an uprising against the military regime. The junta viewed her popularity as such a threat that they locked her under house arrest for 15 of the next 22 years.

In November 2010, Suu Kyi was released from house arrest and in April she won a seat in Parliament, paving the way for Western nations to ease economic sanctions that had been imposed on the former military government.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan official: Up to 50 killed in earthquake

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—As many as 50 people are feared entombed under tons of rock and stone that buried a village in a landslide after two earthquakes in northern Afghanistan, authorities said Tuesday. A single bulldozer worked to uncover the bodies of those killed in Monday's landslide after the earthquakes struck the Hindu Kush region, but villagers fear there will be no survivors. So far, rescuers have only recovered the bodies of two women, according to Gov. Abdul Majid of Baghlan province who reached the area on Tuesday afternoon after a four-hour drive from the provincial capital of Pul-e-Khumri.

3 dead, scores missing as rains hit PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Big waves sank a boat in the southwestern Philippines, killing at least two people and leaving 10 missing while rescuers searched Wednesday for 80 more fishermen after monsoon rains inundated southern villages. The vessel MV Jociel 2 sank shortly before midnight Tuesday before reaching El Nido on Palawan Island, said coast guard spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Armand Balilo. One of the passengers managed to contact the coast guard and 22 people were rescued while 10 others are still missing. A child and an elderly person drowned, he said.

World

Egypt Christians rally behind rival of Islamists

CAIRO (AP)—In the small southern Egyptian town of Azaziya, where almost all the residents are Christians, few doubt that nearly everyone who can is going to vote for Ahmed Shafiq, ousted leader Hosni Mubarak's last prime minister and his longtime friend, in this weekend's presidential election.

AP

In this Friday, June 8, 2012 file photo, Egyptian presidential runoff candidate Ahmed Shafiq is greeted by a supporter after attending a press conference in Cairo, Egypt.

Shafiq's candidacy has dismayed many Egyptians who believe the Mubarak-era veteran will preserve the old regime's authoritarianism. But even if some Christians share those reservations, they view his opponent in the race as far worse: Mohammed Morsi, of the Muslim Brotherhood, which Egypt's Christian minority fears will turn the country into an Islamic state.

"Our goal is a civil state. We don't see anyone else who can protect this except for him," Montaser Qalbek, the son of Azaziya's town leader, said of Shafiq.

In last month's first round of the presidential election, which narrowed the field from 13 candidates to two, Shafiq received nearly all of the 4,500 votes cast in Azaziya, a town in the southern province of Assiut. Qalbek said he expects more than twice that number to turn out for the Saturday-Sunday run-off and that they will again overwhelmingly back Shafiq.

That determination is likely to be mirrored across the Christian community, which makes up 10 percent of Egypt's population of 85 million. Many Christians see the vote as a clear-cut choice between a secular state and one in which an Islamist agenda slowly takes root. Leaders of the Orthodox Coptic Church, to which most Egyptian Christians belong, and Christian activists have been working hard to get the community to the polls, said Yousef Sidhom, editor of the weekly Watani newspaper and a Coptic Church official.

While they have been cautious not to use the pulpit, priests and influential congregants have been expressing support for Shafiq at church-related activities, Sidhom and other Christians said.

Those Christians who vote will back Shafiq because they are fearful of the Brotherhood's "hidden agenda," Sidhom said.

"There is a Brotherhood strategy to work toward building an Islamic country."

Sidhom says there are concerns the Brotherhood will keep Christians out of some government positions, tax non-Muslims, base education around Islam and create a foreign policy that favors Muslim over non-Muslim nations.

UN observers in Syria attacked near besieged town

BEIRUT (AP)—The U.S. accused Russia of escalating the Syrian conflict by sending attack helicopters to President Bashar Assad's regime, and U.N. observers were attacked Tuesday with stones, metal rods and gunfire that blocked them from a besieged rebel-held town where civilians were feared trapped by government shelling.

The accusation by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that Moscow was arming the Assad regime came as the top U.N. peacekeeping official said Syria was already in a state of civil war.

"We are concerned about the latest information we have that there are attack helicopters on the way from Russia to Syria, which will escalate the conflict quite dramatically," Clinton said in Washington.

There was no immediate reaction from the Russian Foreign Ministry. Moscow insists that any arms it supplies to its Damascus ally are not being used against anti-government protesters in the 15-month-old uprising.

The U.N. observers were not hurt as they were turned back by the assault on their vehicles by an angry crowd near the town of Haffa, the U.N. said. The source of the gunfire was not clear.

Activists blamed regime loyalists for the attack. The violence raised questions about the ability of about 300 unarmed monitors to provide a useful assessment of a country that is spiraling toward civil war.

"All U.N. observers are now back at their bases and are secure," said Sausan Ghosheh, a spokeswoman for U.N. observers in Syria. She said monitors have been trying to reach Haffa since June 7.

Meanwhile, the U.N.'s peacekeeping chief, Herve Ladsous, said the Syrian conflict had escalated into civil war. "Yes, I think one can say that," Ladsous told Reuters and Agence France-Presse in an interview, his spokesman confirmed.

U.N. observers have seen a steep rise in violence and a dangerous shift in tactics by both sides in Syria in the last five days, the spokesman, Kieran Dwyer said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Tens of thousands protest Putin despite crackdown

MOSCOW (AP)—Undeterred by a sudden escalation in the Kremlin's crackdown on the opposition, tens of thousands thronged Moscow's tree-lined boulevards Tuesday in the first mass protest against Vladimir Putin since he returned to the presidency in May. The crowd was even larger than at a demonstration on the eve of Putin's inauguration, which disintegrated into violent clashes and ushered in the crackdown. Tuesday's rally ended peacefully, as both protesters and riot police took pains to prevent a confrontation as tensions were already running high. Putin himself spoke of the need "to strive for mutual understanding and to find compromise." Although in his address on Russia Day, a national holiday, he also warned of the dangers posed by attempts to split society.

Coordinated bombs kill 20 in Iraq pilgrimage

BAGHDAD (AP)—Police and health officials say four coordinated car bomb attacks on Shiite pilgrims in the Iraqi capital have killed at least 20 people. The death toll was expected to rise in Wednesday's attacks—the third this week targeting the annual religious processions. The bombings threaten to ratchet up sectarian violence. Two police officers say the first bomb struck at around 5 a.m. in the northern neighborhood of Taji, killing seven. Within hours, three more explosions hit other processions in different parts of the city, killing at least 13 more. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Focus

LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Maria Gomez, center, takes part in UCLA's graduation ceremony on June 11, 2011. She received her master's degree in architecture, but her illegal immigrant status is a roadblock to obtaining a job.

An immigrant in limbo between two Americas

By CHRISTOPHER GOFFARD
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES—Maria Gomez stood with the Class of 2011, waiting to climb the stage. The sun was bright on the UCLA campus, her fellow graduates buoyant.

To reach this elite company, she'd worked baby-sitting and housecleaning jobs, scraping up tuition from quarter to quarter. She'd lived on Cup Noodles and granola bars from the food bank when money ran out. She'd spent nights sleeping on the floor of the campus printing room.

At 26, she was getting her master's in architecture from one of the nation's top schools. But the triumph felt hollow, her sense of achievement tangled up with bitterness and fear.

From childhood on, she'd straddled paradoxical Americas.

This was the place where your family's foothold might be dislodged by a single careless word. It was where you had to lie when friends asked why you didn't have a driver's license: "An eye condition." It was where, when your dignified and stoic father thought he saw an immigration-enforcement van, fear made his voice unrecognizable as he screamed: Don't move!

But there was another America her parents had made her believe in, where the children of immigrants could become professionals, chief executives, pioneers.

The country that made you hide like a criminal and the country that promised to let you stand tall atop your talent—she'd grown up with both, somehow believed in both. But now, about to be pitched into a job market where she could not legally work, she felt dread in her stomach.

Could both places be real?

■■■

"We're going to Disneyland."

It's 1993. Maria is 8, the exuberant, green-eyed girl beaming from the middle of family photos. Her family is bankrupt, the cattle on their ranch outside Guadalajara dead or dying. She should be excited about the promised vacation. But something's wrong. She's supposed to keep the trip a secret.

Mom is in the backyard, sobbing as she feeds the past to a bonfire. Boxes of papers, documents, love letters. Everything that doesn't fit in the two suitcases the family will bring.

Soon, after they have slipped across the border and found refuge with relatives in Los Angeles, her parents explain: We won't be returning.

She is told the rules of the new country. Never talk about where you're from. Be careful who you trust. Obey every law.

Her younger sister, Ana, is enrolled in the wrong grade in their elementary school. Her parents are too nervous to tell school officials. Somebody might ask questions.

If Maria knows invisibility is the first rule of survival, she also understands that being a stand-out student is the only escape from the grinding existence her dad, who dreamed of being a veterinarian, is forced to lead. He waits tables at two restaurants near LAX, swallows his pride when a drunk diner grabs his shirt and screams in his face, doubles up on socks because his feet hurt so much.

Between his morning and evening shifts, he picks his oldest daughter up from school in the family Monte Carlo and explains why he loves America. You can make any life you want. You don't have to put up with a husband who hurts you, mija, and you don't have to pay bribes. What counts here are talent and perseverance and the rule of law.

Yet they must live like outlaws, with their application for legal residency stuck in a years-long backlog. Dad assures her that someday the legal papers they ask for in nighttime prayers will come through. "When that day comes," he says, "you have to be ready."

Solitude is safe, drawing her refuge. She sits at the kitchen table drafting imaginary houses and filling their rooms with furniture, vases, portraits, a vision of the American Dream rendered in exacting detail. She adds make-believe indexes of scale, to make it look like a real architect's work. She pores over photos of Europe's great Gothic cathedrals, fascinated by the elegance of flying buttresses and the weight of the balanced stone.

Maria has the sobriety of the reliable oldest child who knows how much rides on her example. Her parents have two more kids, both American-born, who get used to their big sister chiding them not to squander a single opportunity. They're a family of seven in a two-bedroom house in Inglewood.

When she tries to escape English as a Second Language classes in the sixth grade and a teacher wonders aloud if she can even read, considering she hasn't yet mastered English, she feels the need to prove something for all Latinos everywhere.

At Westchester High, she hides in plain sight. Her image pervades her senior yearbook. There she is, the pretty cheerleader with the carefree smile, waving pompoms at Comets games. The jeans-wearing president of the Garden Club, shoveling out a hole. The solemn straight-A student, posing in her academic honors jacket. Only her boyfriend and a couple of friends know her secret.

■■■

The guidance counselor doesn't understand.

What do you mean, you have no Social Security number? Did you forget it?

Maria, midway through her senior year, has applications out to four University of California schools that she has no idea how she'll afford. If she's lucky, she figures, at least she'll be able to wave around some acceptance letters, to show she was smart enough for the colleges she can't attend.

Now she sits in the counselor's office trying to explain an uncomfortable fact.

No, she didn't lose the number. She doesn't have one.

The counselor sighs and says, "I can't do anything for you." There are no government grants or scholarships for students without papers.

Now she sees it looming, the wall between her and her future, the sight she's dreaded for years.

Acceptance letters arrive. UC Santa Barbara. UC Irvine. UC Berkeley. UCLA. They all want her.

What now? Well, her parents didn't raise a quitter. And after all, it's America. There must be a fissure in the wall.

Berkeley, her first choice, is definitely out, because she could never afford housing. But UCLA? Maybe. She could live at home. And tuition?

To learn about possible funding sources, she volunteers at her high school's college-planning office. She finds a sympathetic counselor who gives her a grant and directs her to a series of small, private scholarships. She takes odd jobs as a loan processor, dance studio receptionist, baby sitter.

And so she becomes the first in her family to attend college. She's on the bus five hours a day. She interns at a downtown L.A. architecture firm. She's up past midnight in the backyard, wielding a table saw over her models.

Everywhere, there are reminders of her precarious status. The chill in her spine when she sees a cop. The excuses she gives when friends invite her to movies that require ID. The talk-radio drumbeat about illegal immigrants stealing jobs. But she begins to see she's not alone—there are other UCLA students without papers, struggling like her, and they talk about the need to come forward and assert themselves.

Then her mother—her closest confidante and biggest supporter, who always told her she could do anything—starts to wheeze. Doctors think it's asthma, but it doesn't go away, and finally they diagnose pulmonary fibrosis. She lives long enough to see Maria graduate with her bachelor's degree.

■■■

"You're an illegal?"

It's her final year at UCLA's School of Art and Architecture, and she's explaining to a professor why she will miss an upcoming review of her classwork. She will be campaigning for passage of the California Dream Act, meant to make financial aid available to undocumented students like herself.

"You're an illegal?" the professor says again, guilelessly, but loud enough for others to hear.

By now she's grown vocal, an organizer of rallies and lobbying campaigns, and her schoolwork has suffered. Like hundreds of others who were brought to the States illegally as children, she does something her parents could never do—announce her presence, calculating that there is more to gain than lose.

But her identities remain compartmentalized. She keeps her secret from her grad school peers, many of them white, affluent, well-connected, her rivals in a climate of cutthroat competition in which she feels forever one step behind.

Sometimes, it's possible to forget she's not one of them. Like the time the senior class books flights to study the architectural marvels of Europe. Finally she'll stand inside Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur, Versailles, Sagrada Familia.

"I had forgotten I couldn't leave the country," she says.

After the professor's outburst, it's impossible to keep the truth from her classmates. To her surprise, no one maligns her. One even offers to sign a petition.

When they graduate last June, she's indistinguishable from her classmates in their ironed gowns and mortarboard caps. But the others are sending out resumes. They'll be getting jobs as engineers, project managers, museum assistants.

For her, it's the culmination of a dream, and if her mom were alive she'd be bawling her eyes out, and though her quiet, unexpressive father doesn't come out and say it, she sees him bursting with pride. At the same time, the day marks the start of a limbo whose end she cannot see.

■■■

She sits at a Starbucks near her home, not far from LAX, with her laptop open in front of her. She's just been laid off from a job at a nonprofit. She's assembling her portfolio, preparing to compete in a field hard hit by the economy.

Planes lift off and set down behind her. Being so close to the airport, gateway to the world, is a cruel irony. She can't go to any of those places.

"I want to be able to work. I want to be able to give back to the country," she says. "Most people are like, 'Are you practicing architecture now?' I'm kind of living in denial."

One day, nearly a year after her graduation, a call comes from nowhere. It's a Mexican-American builder who met her last year at the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles, where she spoke about her life. He's building a small medical office in Chino Hills. Would she draft the blueprints? She's done schematic designs, but never the nitty-gritty detail work that shows where the wiring and plumbing goes. She'll have to learn quick.

"You know this is my first job?" she says.

He does, and he wants to help. She'll work for almost nothing. She just wants a chance. It might be the start of a business relationship. It might be her chance to move out of her dad's garage.

"The more you tell your story, the more you put yourself out there," she says excitedly after the conversation. "If I'd stayed home and cried my heart out over my situation, this wouldn't have happened."

Yet because she has no license and no insurance, she must enlist the help of an established architect, a former professor, whose quoted price startles her: $25,000.

She relays it to the contractor, who says it's twice as much as he wants to pay, and who says he'll keep her posted.

When the phone doesn't ring, she says, "I'm not completely heartbroken." She's already looking for other leads. Because she's been here before, and she knows what an American does.

Environment

Japanese composting may be new food waste solution

By JAY LINDSAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDDLETON, Massachusetts (AP)—On a plot lost among the expanse of tightly trimmed fairways and greens, weeks-old food is buried under a tarp and mulch and left to decompose.

This country club in Massachusetts isn't taking an unsanitary shortcut with its trash. It's trying bokashi, an obscure composting method it says will help it recycle 4 tons of food waste each year.

Bokashi is based on an ancient Japanese practice that ferments food waste by covering it with a mix of microorganisms that suppress its smell and eventually produce soil. Bokashi is not widely used in the United States, but its practitioners think it should be because of the amount of food wasted in the U.S.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. generated more than 34 million tons of food waste in 2010, accounting for 14 percent of all the solid waste that reached landfills or incinerators.

Advocates say the key advantage of bokashi, if done correctly, is that the microorganisms involved don't produce foul odors as they break down the food. So people can toss in meat, and even small amounts of dairy and oils, unlike in other composting methods. That eliminates much of the waste sorting that can make composting impractical for a larger food establishment. And the treated food won't attract pests.

MCT

Scott Rappe works in his backyard and deck where he keeps recycling containers, April 19, 2011, in Chicago, Illinois. In the yellow bucket are food scraps like chicken bones, pasta, shrimp, lemon rinds and bokashi, a fermented wheat bran that aids food scrap composting. The result is "bokashi broth" or "compost tea" that he spreads over other potted plants in his yard.

At Ferncroft Country Club, the food is first fermented in a sealed container. There's no smell near the pile where the food is later buried, and it appears untouched by animals as it breaks down into soil.

"I'll be honest with you. I thought by now we were going to see a hole, a nibble or something. It's nothing," said executive chef Stephane Baloy, who runs Ferncroft's program.

Though little-known, bokashi has appeared in recent decades in pockets around the U.S., from Arizona to Brooklyn. But the EPA doesn't list it as a composting method and has no information on it, according to a spokeswoman.

At the U.S. Composting Council, Leanne Spaulding said there's almost no credible research on the practice. She said there are questions about whether there's enough space in crowded urban settings for the soil that would be produced by widespread bokashi use. And she said some see bokashi as a "gimmick" because the commercial product that's widely used by practitioners today is made up of microorganisms that occur naturally everywhere.

Bokashi traces back centuries to Japanese farmers who covered food scraps in their rich, regional soil, which contained microorganisms that would ferment the food. After a few weeks, they'd bury the waste. Two or three weeks later, it was soil.

Today, bokashi practitioners often get the needed microorganisms from a product first sold in the early 1980s called Effective Microorganisms (EM1), which is distributed by a Texas-based company called TeraGanix. The product is no gimmick, said executive vice president Eric Lancaster, but rather a way to help bokashi practitioners avoid a stinking mess by assuring them they're getting the right mix of microorganisms every time.

The EM1 is mixed with some kind of carbon it can stick to, such as bran or sawdust, as well as molasses or another sugar the microorganisms can feed on. Practitioners then layer the concoction on newly disposed food and seal it in an airtight bucket. Weeks later, it's taken out of the bucket and buried.

There's little smell with properly done bokashi because the microorganisms that break down the food produce amino acids and small amounts of alcohol. Those don't stink like the ammonia and hydrogen sulfide produced by other microorganisms when food is left to rot, said Joshua Cheng, an associate professor of earth and environmental sciences at Brooklyn College.

Cheng is doing research on bokashi, some of it funded by TeraGanix, to better understand the chemistry behind how the food breaks down, the quality of the soil produced and to document the claims about a lack of odor. He's also trying to make sure there are no pathogens produced—a concern in any composting process.

Vandra Thorburn, who runs a business in which she provides and collects bokashi buckets from about 50 customers around Brooklyn, said she's making it her personal mission to get bokashi listed by the EPA. Contrary to concerns that cities don't have space for bokashi, she said the unobtrusive method produces soil that could fill community gardens or revitalize worn or contaminated soils around the city.

DO YOUR PART

Green mythbusters

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Forget "Ghostbusters." Today, I'm fighting popular green myths to help you get started on going green. With all the misinformation out there, it's important to zero in on effective ways to Do Your Part to save money, save resources, and live healthier. Here are my Top 7 Green Mythbusters.

1) Organic is the only way to go.

False! Organic is one good option when food shopping because it means the food or produce was not created or grown with synthetic chemical pesticides or insecticides. However, locally grown foods are another important way to be eco-friendly. Those foods are from farms within a few hundred miles and are not shipped from around the world to get to your table.

2) If it says it's green, it must be green

Not quite. Terms like "eco-friendly", "green", and even "natural" are not regulated and have no defined standards. "Biodegradable" is another. Most products destined for the landfill will not biodegrade in our lifetime. Go to DoYourPart.com/Columns for specific information on labels you can trust.

3) If you don't have a hybrid, you aren't being eco-friendly

Not so fast. If you need a new car, hybrids are a smart option. If your car doesn't need to be upgraded, you can make it more fuel-efficient. Getting your car regularly serviced, keeping your tires properly inflated, and consolidating your driving trips will maximize fuel efficiency. Also, when you do decide to buy, fuel efficiency should be top of mind.

4) Disinfectants can't be natural

Not true. Unless you're Oscar the Grouch, germs probably aren't your thing, but you don't have to resort to chemical warfare to disinfect. Vinegar and hydrogen peroxide are safer and inexpensive options. Vinegar can be used on everything except marble. Hydrogen peroxide is ideal in the bathroom for fighting mold and mildew.

5) Incandescent bulbs are going away

Stop hoarding because incandescent bulbs are not going away. While some manufacturers are phasing out certain models, many are being replaced with more energy efficient versions. The lighting will be the same, the bulbs will just last longer.

6) What goes down the storm drain will be filtered

Not so. Everything from excess fertilizer to used motor oil can wind up in storm drains. Unlike what goes down the drain at home, this stuff isn't filtered before heading into our streams, creeks, and eventually our oceans. It's critical to properly dispose of household hazardous waste.

7) If an electronic is off, it isn't using power

Wrong. 'Phantom power' is the energy used by electronics and appliances that aren't even on and adds up to 10 percent of the energy we use at home. Devices with a remote or continuous display fall into this category, as do most chargers. Unplug your devices or use a power strip or similar device that will let you cut off power with the touch of a switch.

Clearing up the confusion when it comes to going green will help you cut down on wasted resources and money. That way, you can begin to Do Your Part today.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living *available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com)*

EPA, partners launch 'My Air, My Health Challenge'

» Inventors will compete to develop personal air pollution and health sensors

WASHINGTON, D.C.—To help researchers, communities, and doctors better understand the connection between air quality and a person's health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Coordinator for Health Information Technology announced a nationwide challenge called My Air, My Health, or MAMH. The MAMH challenge offers awards for the invention of personal, portable sensors that measures air pollution and a person's physiological response to pollution.

ON THE NET

- More information on the challenge: http://challenge.gov/HHS/372-my-air-my-health-challenge
- More information on the Health Data Initiative Forum: http://www.HDIforum.org

"This challenge provides an opportunity to tap into the ingenuity of Americans to build technology to improve health. In the future, these types of personalized devices will enable people to make better informed choices about their own health and their environment," said Glenn Paulson, EPA Science Advisor.

"Men, women, children—we're all different, and our bodies react in different ways to pollution and other harmful toxins in our environment," said Linda Birnbaum, NIEHS director. "We believe pairing health researchers with technology innovators will help us get the tools we need for a more complete picture of what people are breathing and how it might affect their health."

Responders to the challenge will propose designs for sensors that can be easily worn or carried, and take into account a known or plausible link between airborne pollutants and health measurements (such as, heart rate and breathing) in certain individuals or communities. The proposals should also address how to make the collected health and environmental data available to researchers, public health institutions, and other interested parties.

Four finalists will each receive $15,000 and will be invited to develop their proposals into working prototypes to demonstrate how their systems can be integrated for practical use by health and environmental agencies, and by individual citizens. One of the four finalists will then be awarded $100,000 for the most effective solution for integrating physiological and air quality data that is usable and meaningful to long-term health outcomes. The awards will further scientific research on air quality and public health.

The MAMH Challenge announcement was made at HHS's Health Data Initiative Forum by EPA science adviser Glenn Paulson, Ph.D and NIEHS director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D. Interested parties can learn more about the challenge during a webinar on June 19 at 4pm. ***(EPA)***

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Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday thru Thursday	1:15	4:15	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
The third entry in the Madagascar franchise finds the tightknit group of animals joining a traveling circus in order to get back home. Noah Baumbach provides the script, with Eric Darnell handling director duties. Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith, and Sacha Baron Cohen reprise the voice roles, with Frances McDormand stepping in as the villain.

Prometheus

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday thru Thursday	1:30	4:30	7:30	

Noomi Rapace, Michael Fassbender
Science Fiction • Rated R

Synopsis
Director Ridley Scott steps back into sci-fi territory with this tale that takes its cues from the Alien films — which it was originally supposed to tie in to before growing into its own mythology during pre-production. Jon Spaihts and Damon Lindelof provide the script, while The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo's Noomi Rapace and Michael Fassbender head up the cast, which also includes Charlize Theron, Ben Foster, and Idris Elba.

Snow White and The Huntsman

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday thru Thursday	1:05	4:05	7:05	

Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Men In Black 3

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Sunday thru Thursday	1:20	4:20	7:20	

Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Battleship

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:50
Sunday thru Thursday	1:00	4:00	7:00	

Liam Neeson, Taylor Kitsch
Science fiction, War • Rated PG 13

The Dictator

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday thru Thursday	1:25	4:25	7:25	

Sacha Baron Cohen, Anna Faris
Comedy • Rated R

Marvel's The Avengers

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday thru Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:10	

Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

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Life & Style

Michelle Obama has daughters' approval on new book

WASHINGTON (AP)— Michelle Obama gets a rare thumbs-up from her adolescent daughters for publishing her first gardening book.

The first lady said her daughters Sasha, 11, and Malia, 13, were pulled in by the beautiful pictures and eventually read "American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Gardens Across America."

"They couldn't put it down and they started looking through and then they started actually reading it," she said. "Eventually, I got, actually, a thumbs-up."

Mrs. Obama spoke to a bookstore crowd at an anything-but-typical book signing, which required more than 200 attendees to stand in line for hours last week to get a wrist band, then go through security clearance and again line up for a few hours before Tuesday's signing at a downtown Barnes & Noble bookstore. She thanked the groups that were caught up in the rain while waiting.

The book, released two weeks ago, traces the story of the garden on the South Lawn and community gardens around the country.

The first lady was joined by children from Bancroft and Harriet Tubman elementary schools, both in Washington, who have helped with the garden since its inception.

AP

First lady Michelle Obama signs copies of her book "American Grown: The Story of the White House Kitchen Garden and Garden Across America," in Washington, Tuesday, June 12, 2012.

"They come to the White House, they don't get star struck, they don't look around, they get to work," she said, as the crowd laughed. "They get our garden planted and harvested in a matter of 10, 15 minutes, sometimes 30 minutes. They just get it done."

Washington resident Britta Nelson brought her three daughters- around the ages of the first daughters- to the book signing.

"I'm curious to see and read how she inspires parents, (and) find ways to have parents get their kids excited about healthy foods," she said.

Nelson waited two hours last week for a wristband and three hours before the signing. She said it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance for her children to meet the first African-American first lady of the United States.

George Washington University graduate student Jamila Lewis said she jumped at the opportunity to see the first lady in person.

"As a black girl, I'm just like ... she's so beautiful and wonderful and she represents our country so well," said Lewis, 24, of Alexandria, Va. "She's trying to do so much to help America and I appreciate her doing what she does." Lewis said she was excited to try the book's recipes.

In an interview aired on NPR's "Talk of the Nation" program Tuesday, the first lady said a fast food lifestyle that has evolved over the years has had an effect on children's health.

"The hope is that by starting the conversation with our children," she said, "I find that adults are more inclined to make the changes for their kids more quickly than they will for themselves."

She added: "Parents want to do the right thing. It's just that societally it feels like we're pushing a big heavy boulder up a hill because everything out there is working against the health of our kids."

"Gone With the Wind" actress Ann Rutherford dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ann Rutherford, the demure brunette actress who played the sweetheart in the long-running Andy Hardy series and Scarlett O'Hara's youngest sister in "Gone With the Wind," has died. She was 94.

A close friend, Anne Jeffreys, said she was at Rutherford's side when the actress died Monday evening at home in Beverly Hills. Rutherford died of heart problems and had been ill for several months, Jeffreys said.

Rutherford's death was first reported by the *Los Angeles Times*.

"She was a dear person, a very funny lady, wonderful heart, was always trying to do things for people," said Jeffreys, a leading lady of many films of the 1940s and a star of the 1950s TV sitcom "Topper."

Rutherford was a frequent guest at "Gone With the Wind" celebrations in Georgia and, as one of the few remaining actors from the movie, continued to attract fans from around the world, Jeffreys said.

"She loved it. It really stimulated the last years of her life, because she got thousands of emails from fans," Jeffreys said. "She was in great demand."

She was also known for the Andy Hardy series, a hugely popular string of comical, sentimental films, that starred Lewis Stone as a small-town judge and Mickey Rooney as his spirited teenage son.

AP

This Nov. 5, 1971 file photo shows actress Ann Rutherford in New York.

Rutherford first appeared in the second film of the series, "You're Only Young Once," in 1938, and she went on 11 more. She played Polly Benedict, the ever-faithful girlfriend that Andy always returned to, no matter what other, more glamorous girl had temporarily caught his eye. (Among the other girls: Judy Garland and Lana Turner.)

It was said she won the part of Carreen—the youngest of the three O'Hara sisters in "Gone With the Wind"—because Judy Garland was filming "The Wizard of Oz."

Rutherford told the Times in 2010 that MGM head Louis B. Mayer was going to refuse her the role, calling it "a nothing part." But Rutherford, who was a fan of the novel, uncharacteristically burst into tears and he relented.

Rutherford plays the sister who, early in the film, begs to be allowed to go to the ball at Ashley Wilkes' plantation. "Oh, Mother, can't I stay up for the ball tomorrow? ... I'm 13 now," she says in a sweet voice.

In 1989, she was one of 10 surviving "GWTW" cast members who gathered in Atlanta for the celebration of the film's 50th anniversary.

"Anyone who had read the book sensed they were into something that would belong to the ages, and everyone was in a frenzy to read the book," she said.

"The specialness of this is with each generation of young people who are touched by `Gone With the Wind,'" she said. "As long as there are little children, there will always be a Mickey Mouse. ... On an adult version, `Gone With the Wind' does that."

Rutherford concurred with other cast members that no matter what else they had done, "Our obituary will say we were in `Gone With the Wind' and we'll be proud of it."

In a 1969 Los Angeles Times interview, she lamented that the "permissive generation" of the 1960s wasn't getting the old-fashioned parenting that the fictional Andy Hardy got.

"Someday someone will have to sit down with today's youth and give them a man-to-man talk," she said.

She also joked that "my life has reached the point where I'm now `camp.'"

Rutherford was born in 1917, according to the voter records reviewed by The Associated Press. Some sources give other dates. The daughter of an opera tenor and an actress, she began performing on the stage as a child.

She launched her movie career in Westerns while still in her teens, often appearing with singing cowboy hero Gene Autry and sometimes with John Wayne.

She joined MGM in 1937, playing a variety of roles for several years before leaving the studio to freelance.

Among her other films: "Whistling in the Dark," with Red Skelton, 1941, and its two sequels, "Whistling in Dixie" and "Whistling in Brooklyn"; "Orchestra Wives," with bandleader Glenn Miller, 1942; and "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," with Danny Kaye, 1947.

David Arquette files for divorce from Courtney Cox

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show David Arquette has filed for divorce from actress Courtney Cox Arquette.

The actor cited irreconcilable differences in his petition to end the couple's 12-year marriage.

Arquette filed the petition on Friday in Los Angeles and the paperwork indicates he is self-represented. A publicist for the actor declined to comment and the Cox Arquette camp could not be immediately reached.

The 40-year-old actor is traveling overseas and had a bar mitzvah ceremony at Jerusalem's Western Wall on Monday.

AP

This June 28, 2011 file photo originally released by InStyle, David Arquette, left, and Courtney Cox attend the Beau Joie Champagne Art Of Elysium Dinner hosted by Rachel Bilson and held at Arquette's home in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Arquette and Cox have a 7-year-old daughter and the actor is seeking joint custody. The pair met on the set of the film "Scream" in 1996 and married three years later.

They announced their separation in October 2010, but Arquette's filing lists the separation date as Dec. 31, 2011. It does not include any other details, but indicates Arquette signed the documents on March 23.

"We remain best friends and responsible parents to our daughter and we still love each other deeply," the former couple wrote in a statement released after their separation.

Cox gained widespread fame for her role on the TV comedy "Friends" and currently stars in ABC's "Cougar Town." Arquette is an executive producer of that show and has appeared in numerous films, including "Never Been Kissed" and "3000 Miles to Graceland."

Judge grants Jeff Goldblum 3-year stay-away order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge ordered a woman who has repeatedly tried to contact Jeff Goldblum for the past decade to stay away from the actor for the next three years.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson issued the order Tuesday in Los Angeles against Linda Ransom after a contentious hearing in which the woman repeatedly raised her voice to the judge. Ransom claims she is trying to pursue a case against one of Goldblum's employees, but Goodson told her that didn't give her the right to repeatedly go to the actor's home and try to meet him at public performances.

"Mr. Goldblum is being harassed because the legal system is negligently violating my rights," Ransom said.

"This harassment is going to stop," Goodson told Ransom. As she explained the terms of the order—that Ransom must stay 100 yards away from Goldblum and his home, and refrain from contacting him for three years—Ransom continued yelling.

AP

This Nov. 7, 2010 file photo shows Jeff Goldblum at the premiere of "Morning Glory" at The Ziegfeld Theatre in New York.

"I must say you are acting irrationally in court," the judge said. "Mr. Goldblum does not want you near him."

Goodson issued her order without attorneys for Goldblum having to say a word. She relied on declarations from Goldblum, police and security officials in which they described Ransom's conduct in recent years.

Goldblum received a temporary restraining order in May after Ransom repeatedly went to the home of the "Jurassic Park" and "Independence Day" star.

The actor wrote in his petition that Ransom has been harassing him for a decade. Police say she has told them that she will not stop trying to meet Goldblum unless a restraining order is in place.

"Over the past decade, I have experienced substantial emotional distress due to Ms. Ransom's continuous stalking, harassing, and threatening behavior," Goldblum wrote in a sworn court declaration filed in May. He did not attend Tuesday's hearing.

Ransom has claimed one of Goldblum's employees attacked her and that she wanted to file a case, but was unable to find an attorney willing to represent her.

Goldblum's filings stated Ransom has been arrested three times for violating previous restraining orders and has been placed in psychiatric care. The actor says he first alerted authorities to her in 2001 after she attended one of his acting classes and began waiting outside his home.

'Young and Restless' actor to have heart surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 7-year-old actor best known as the boy behind the Darth Vader mask in a popular car commercial shown during last year's Super Bowl is having open heart surgery.

Max Page plays Reed on the top-rated CBS soap opera "The Young and the Restless." CBS spokeswoman Elise Bromberg says he will have surgery Thursday to replace his pulmonary valve and repair a hole in his heart at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

Max was born with a congenital heart defect and has undergone multiple surgeries.

Bromberg says that Max told his mother that he didn't have a choice, and that he "might as well go through it with a good attitude."

Max is expected to be hospitalized for about five days.

Pynchon e-books coming out Wednesday

NEW YORK (AP)—Another major e-book holdout has joined the digital world: Thomas Pynchon.

Penquin Press announced Tuesday that the electronic editions of "Gravity's Rainbow," "V." and other influential works will go on sale Wednesday.

The 75-year-old writer has long been praised as a visionary for the information age, but had resisted allowing his books to be downloaded. His other novels include "Vineland" and "Against the Day." Penguin's announcement included no statement from Pynchon, who has avoided the media for decades.

Pynchon's books have been released by several publishers, including Little, Brown and Company and Henry Holt and Company, but Penguin acquired e-rights to all of his work. The deal was negotiated by Pynchon's wife, literary agent Melanie Jackson.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Book of Mormon stolen in Arizona recovered in DC

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—Federal authorities have arrested a man in the theft of a rare first-edition copy of the Book of Mormon from a suburban Phoenix bookstore. Mesa police said Tuesday that FBI and U.S. marshals searched the apartment of Jay Linford in Washington, D.C., and recovered the book that's valued at about $40,000. The edition is one of 5,000 printed in 1830. The owner of Rare and Out of Print Books and Art in Mesa reported the book stolen on May 28 and said it wasn't insured. Helen Schlie says it's known throughout Mesa's Mormon community that her store had an original copy. Police say the store owner knows Linford and he allegedly was in the store at the time of the theft. Police say Linford is being held on $40,000 bond pending extradition to Arizona.

3 men ordered to trial in Winans' carjacking

DETROIT (AP)—Three men will stand trial in the carjacking of prominent Detroit pastor and gospel music icon Marvin Winans. The Wayne County prosecutor's office say all three men were bound over Tuesday to Wayne County Circuit Court on carjacking, conspiracy to carjack, unarmed robbery and conspiracy to commit unarmed robbery charges. Each was ordered held on a $200,000 bond pending June 19 arraignments. Winans is pastor of Perfecting Church on Detroit's east side. He delivered singer Whitney Houston's eulogy in February. He was attacked May 16 while pumping gas. The robbers took his SUV, Rolex watch and cash. The 54-year-old sustained bruises and scrapes. Arrests were made within days of the robbery.

Volunteering would quickly fill pop's social calendar

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Torn in Texas" (April 13) wrote that her widowed father-in-law visits them every weekend, leaving no time for her family to have a weekend just for themselves. May I suggest that "Torn" contact the Office on Aging nearest to "Pop" and find out what programs are available for seniors. If he has the capacity to drive an hour each way to their house, perhaps he could volunteer.

It appears that Pop has a lot of life left in him, and it's a shame that he spends so much of it alone. If he could become involved in some activities during the week, they might overflow into his weekends, keep him busy and productive, and alleviate his family's guilt. If you only reduce the number of times he visits each month, he will be alone that much more and probably won't admit that he is lonely.

As is often the case, I'll bet Pop's late wife made all their social plans. I recommend that Torn or her husband go WITH Pop to a program the first time. It would also be helpful to talk to the director and explain the circumstances. The father-in-law may be resistant at first because it's difficult to walk into a new place cold turkey. But he will be warmly welcomed and may look forward to the next time.

EXPERIENCED WITH SENIORS

DEAR EXPERIENCED WITH SENIORS: Your letter reflects the opinion of many other readers. Most agreed that Pop needs to get out and become more involved, and Torn should appreciate the time she and her family spends with Pop, because at 87 he won't be around forever.

Read on:

DEAR ABBY: While I sympathize with Torn, she needs to consider that her father-in-law is 87 and has many more years behind him than ahead of him. Any time spent with him should be considered a blessing. At his age, he may not be able to prepare food for himself, so time at his son's home may be his only opportunity for a decent meal.

My advice to Torn is to stop seeing Pop as a visitor and regard him as family. Include him in your family's life and plans and build memories while you can. Remember, you will be setting an example for your own children. How you treat your father-in-law is how they will believe the elderly should be treated, and one day that will be you.

IRENE IN ELIDA, OHIO

DEAR ABBY: Torn should be thankful her father-in-law is in good enough health to visit and be part of the family. If she needs a weekend alone, think about having him up during the week. Perhaps her teenagers have activities during the week that he would enjoy. Your family is the most important thing to Pop, and by including him you are contributing to his quality of life and well-being. That way you will live with fewer regrets.

ACHING IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY: It seems like a lot of families throw away their parents—the people who gave them life, changed their diapers, fed, sheltered and clothed them. Daughter-in-law is using the excuse of needing a weekend to themselves to dump Grandpa into a nursing home.

If she needs time away from him, involve him in senior activities, church, a health club, and help him find some friends. Pretty soon she'll find she won't see much of Grandpa. She'll have her weekend time and also have helped him have a happy end to his life.

Remember, without Grandpa, she wouldn't have the husband she has now. She should pay him back a little of what he gave her husband—the gift of life.

APPRECIATING MY MOM

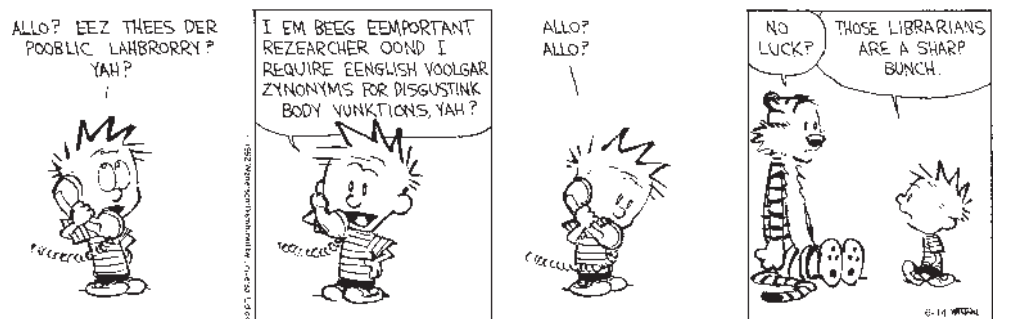
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ALLO? EEZ THEES DER POOBLIC LAHBRORRY? YAH?
I EM BEEG EEMPORTANT REZEARCHER OOND I REQUIRE EENGLISH VOOLGAR ZYNONYMS FOR DISGUSTINK BODY VUNKTIONS, YAH?
ALLO? ALLO?
NO LUCK?
THOSE LIBRARIANS ARE A SHARP BUNCH.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

CHEER UP, GARFIELD. IT'S ONLY A BIRTHDAY
NOT HELPING
THERE'LL BE CAKE
HELPING
WITH LOTS AND LOTS OF CANDLES!
NOT HELPING AGAIN
JIM DAVIS 6-14
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KOOTY"? ADAM, YOU FORGOT TO CHECK THE CAKE!
SIGH. SORRY.
NO WORRIES, THOUGH. A LITTLE BIT OF CREATIVITY AND I'LL FIX IT.
THERE, I'VE MADE THE TWO Os INTO ONE BIG A.
IT LOOKS LIKE A PACK OF BIRDS ATTACKED IT.
A PACK OF BIRDS WITH EXCELLENT SPELLING SKILLS.
I SHOULD TWEET THIS.
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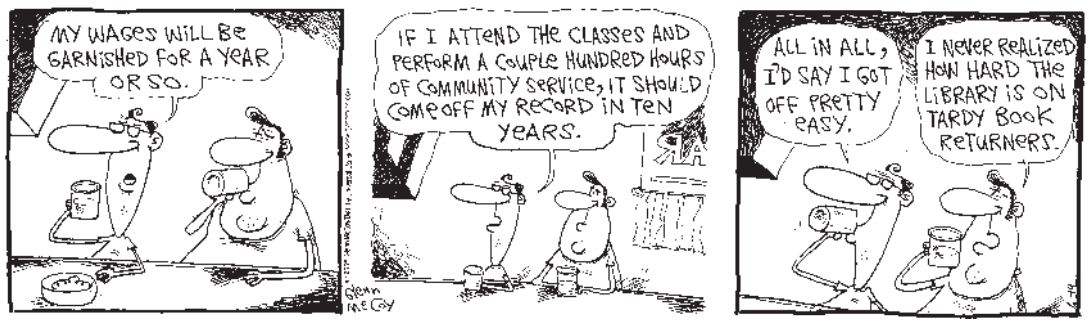
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MY WAGES WILL BE GARNISHED FOR A YEAR OR SO.
IF I ATTEND THE CLASSES AND PERFORM A COUPLE HUNDRED HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE, IT SHOULD COME OFF MY RECORD IN TEN YEARS.
ALL IN ALL, I'D SAY I GOT OFF PRETTY EASY.
I NEVER REALIZED HOW HARD THE LIBRARY IS ON TARDY BOOK RETURNERS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

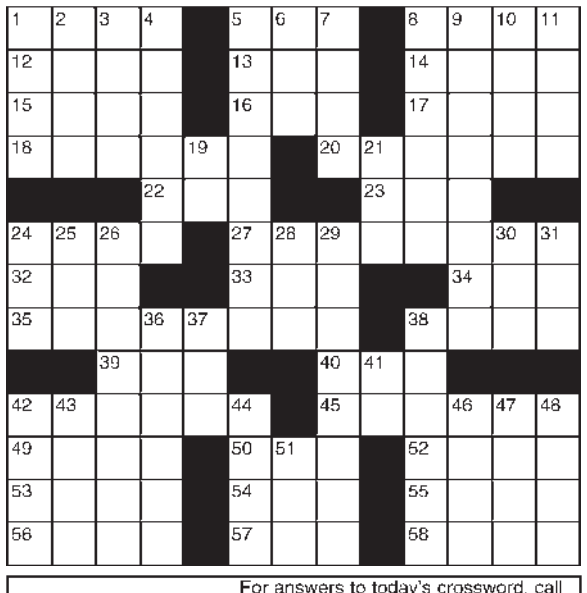
ACROSS
1 Use an old phone
5 Poorly lit
8 Atomizer output
12 "— Karenina"
13 Anger
14 Golden Rule word
15 Fleet from far away
16 Cistern
17 Gulf War missile
18 Dwarf plant
20 Self-defense martial art
22 Egos' counterparts
23 Decks in the ring
24 Fashion
27 Listing alphabetically
32 Leave dumbstruck
33 Individual
34 Tic-tac-toe win
35 Couch potato's place
38 Heal, as a broken bone
39 Charged particle
40 Midafternoon, on a sundial
42 Not celebrated, as a hero
45 Had a stogie
49 Reason for a tarp
50 — Baba
52 Mediocre
53 "It shouldn't happen to —"
54 Ultramodernist
55 "Star Trek II" villain
56 Highway section
57 Martini ingredient
58 Pivot

DOWN
1 Smear
2 Data
3 Any time now
4 Timmy's pet
5 Math function
6 A Gershwin
7 Transcending (Pref.)
8 Tundra creature
9 Cut
10 Poker variety
11 — list (agenda)
19 Commercial
21 White House nickname
24 Scratch
25 Have debts
26 Choice
28 Away from SSW
29 Scorn
30 "There's — in team"
31 Obtained
36 Lizard's locale?
37 Hostel
38 Newsstands
41 "— Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter"
42 Caspian feeder
43 Zilch, in Xochimilco
44 Jets or Sharks
46 1980s-90s German chancellor
47 Birthright barterer
48 Finished
51 Wahine's gift

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	P	S	E	■	A	M	P	■	A	Q	U	A
R	O	W	S	■	L	E	A	■	S	U	N	G
T	R	A	C	K	I	N	G	■	H	A	I	R
E	N	N	U	I	■	■	E	J	E	C	T	A
■	■	■	D	R	I	P	■	I	N	K	■	■
P	E	S	O	■	D	E	A	L	■	I	K	E
T	E	N	■	S	L	A	N	T	■	N	O	G
A	L	A	■	T	Y	R	O	■	A	G	I	O
■	■	C	P	A	■	S	N	O	W	■	■	■
B	I	K	I	N	I	■	■	R	A	D	I	O
E	D	I	E	■	F	R	A	C	K	I	N	G
A	E	N	T	■	F	U	N	■	E	V	E	R
G	A	G	A	■	Y	E	T	■	D	A	Z	E

Yesterday's answer 6-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Daryl Sabara, 20; Lucy Hale, 23; Kevin McHale, 24; Diablo Cody, 34.

Happy Birthday: Take the opportunity to express your feelings. It's important to make your intentions known if you want to receive the support required to reach your goals. Listen to reason before you take on too much. Don't let a sorrowful situation deter you. Adjust your plans and keep moving. Your numbers are 5, 12, 23, 26, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stay mellow when dealing with home and family matters. Nurture important relationships and work alongside those contributing to the same goals you are trying to achieve. Love is highlighted and can enhance your emotional wellness. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Information should take top priority. Verify your options and plans to ensure you reach your goals. Back away from anyone pushing you to make a snap decision if you are feeling unsure. Giving a false impression will lead to consequences. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take on a challenge that will help a cause and enhance your reputation. Idleness will lead to an argument. Free up cash by selling off an asset you no longer need or use. Don't let someone from your past disrupt your life. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Focus on what you can accomplish, instead of the impossible. Living in a dream world may be enticing, but it won't help you pay the bills or make life better. Do your research and you will find a way to start small and build. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Look for excitement and adventure. Engage in anything that promises change and the chance to learn something new. A mini-vacation or a night out will lead to new acquaintances. Participation will enhance opportunities. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll meet with opposition if you exaggerate. Mistakes will cost more than you can afford to lose. Honesty will be the best path to follow. Hold on to your money, regardless of what someone else does. Take precautions and stabilize your position. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You've got the edge, so don't feel you have to explain yourself. Communication will be your weakness, leading to slowdowns and uncertainty. Size up what you want to do and take action. Knowledge and experience will prevail. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't be tempted to get involved in an investment because someone else does. Problems with contracts or joint finances must be dealt with diplomatically. Collect what's owed to you or pay back a debt so you can move along. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A partnership will suffer if you break a promise. Stretching the truth will put a dent in your reputation. Concentrate on home and the changes you can make without going over budget. Working from home will bring higher returns. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Improve your home and family life. You will discover information about someone that will disappoint you. Dig deeper to find out why you were not being told the truth or included. You may have to change the way you deal with others. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep your emotions in check. Let others make the first move. Use discipline when it comes to financial matters. Put love first and make sure you are truthful regarding your intentions, feelings and how you want to live your life. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't try to fit in somewhere you do not belong. You will feel better about your future if you do your own thing. Let go of whatever and whoever isn't working out for you. Speak from the heart. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are versatile, impulsive and eager to participate. You are willful and spontaneous.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1				4		5		
		9					3	
	3		7		8			2
		4				9		
3				8				5
		8				6		
2			4		3		8	
	6					1		
		5		7				9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	6	1	9	4	5	8	7	2
9	2	7	8	3	6	4	5	1
5	4	8	2	7	1	6	9	3
8	5	9	4	1	2	3	6	7
7	3	4	5	6	9	2	1	8
6	1	2	3	8	7	9	4	5
4	9	3	7	5	8	1	2	6
1	8	5	6	2	4	7	3	9
2	7	6	1	9	3	5	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FLAG DAY Solution: 8 letters

B	C	G	P	A	E	N	U	J	U	S	T	I	C	E
I	E	A	R	D	G	N	I	Y	A	L	P	S	I	D
R	L	T	E	O	L	R	M	C	R	A	F	T	S	E
T	E	H	S	G	N	I	I	I	E	B	E	R	U	L
H	B	E	I	Y	D	O	U	L	F	A	R	O	M	G
D	R	R	D	S	R	E	H	B	L	N	N	O	O	N
A	A	I	E	E	T	O	L	U	E	N	A	P	D	A
Y	T	N	N	V	M	O	S	P	C	E	T	S	E	P
E	E	G	T	E	D	E	R	S	T	R	I	P	E	S
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE GUARDIANSHIP OF: PHIRANUT A. PHUMRIN	)	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0330
Minor Child, by PHIANGKWAN J TONGA and VICTOR T. TONGA	)	MOTION TO BE RELIEVED AS LEGAL GUARDIAN AND TO APPOINT SUREE JANNARUKUN AS GUARDIAN
Petitioners	)	Date: June 28, 2012 Time: 9:30 a.m. Associate Judge Perry I. Inos

Now comes Victor T. Tonga and Phiangkwan J. Tonga, Petitioners, hereby moves this Honorable Court for an order relieveing us as legal guardians of the minor child and appointing Suree Jannarukun as legal Guardian. This motion is supported by the attached Declaration.

Dated this 23rd day of May, 2012.

/s/ Victor T. Tonga

/s/ Phiangkwan J. Tonga

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MIAO WANG LARIMER Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0205
vs.	)	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
KELLY S. LARIMER Respondent	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 1192 P.O. Box 10003 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2012

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Yu Ping J. Angui, Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0245
vs.	)	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
David Angui, Respondent,	)	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 2812 BOX 10002, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

DATED, this 12th day of June, 2012:

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Durant powers Thunder past LeBron's Heat

OKLAHOMACITY (AP)—Kevin Durant delivered the fourth quarter LeBron James never could last year.

So forget those NBA Finals jitters at the start. Durant and the young Thunder showed they have already figured out how to finish.

Durant scored 17 of his 36 points in another nightmarish final period for James and his team, leading a Thunder storm that overwhelmed the Heat and gave Oklahoma City a 105-94 victory over Miami in Game 1 on Tuesday night.

"That's what they do, they keep on coming," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "They're relentless."

Teaming with Russell Westbrook to outscore the Heat in the second half by themselves, Durant struck first in his head-to-head matchup with James, who had seven points in the final quarter and was helpless to stop the league's three-time scoring champion.

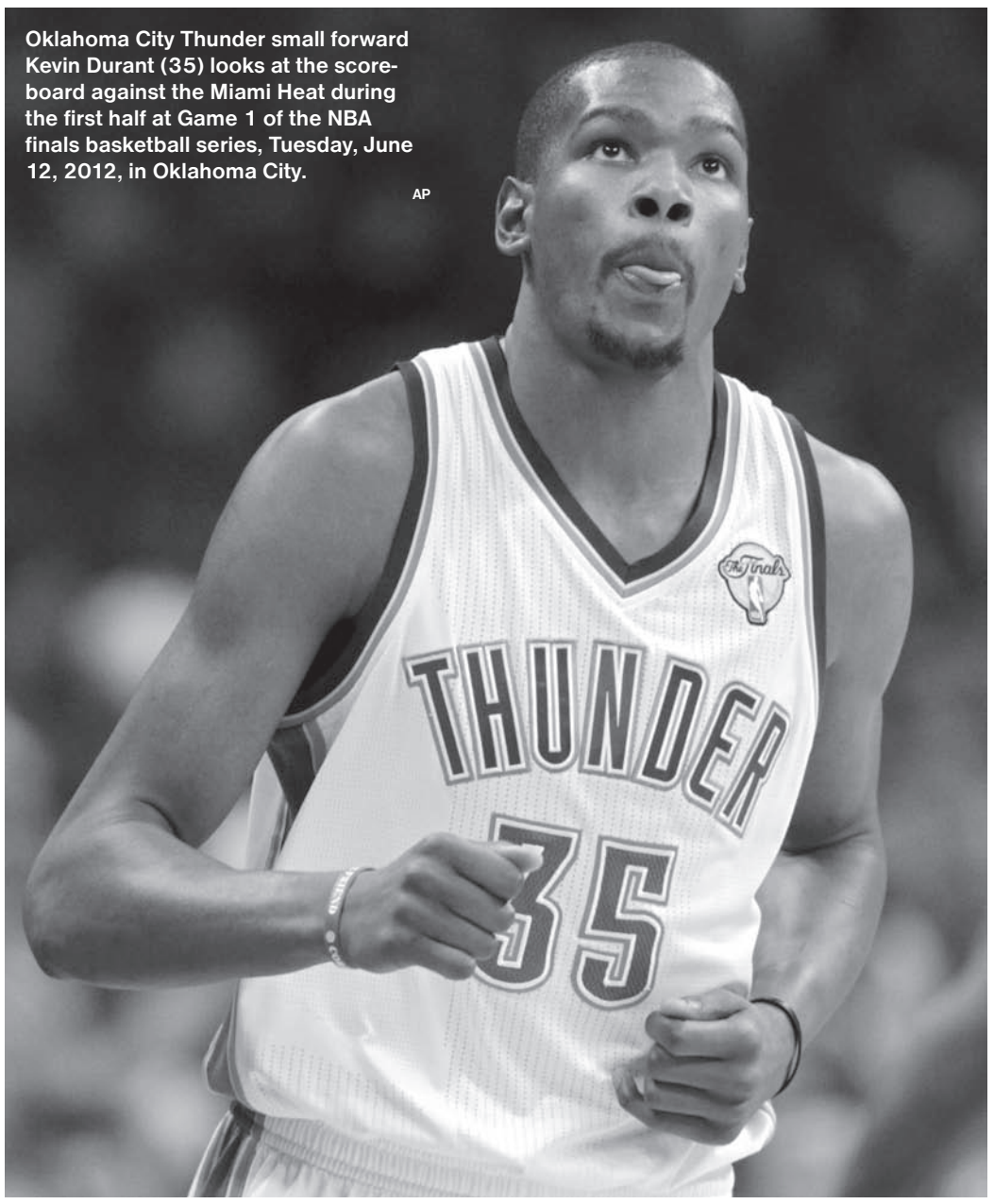
"Well, those guys, they came out on fire. They were passing the ball well, knocking down shots. We just wanted to continue to keep playing," Durant said. "It's a long game, and every time our coach was just saying play harder, play harder, and that's what we did."

Westbrook turned around a poor shooting start to finish with 27 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds for the Thunder, keying a strong finish to the third period that gave the Thunder the lead for good.

Durant took over from there.

Scoring in nearly every way possible, Durant finished 12 of 20 from the field and added eight rebounds. He and Westbrook outscored the Heat 41-40 over the final two periods, showing that maybe this time it will be offense that wins championships.

James finished with 30 points, his most in any of his 11 finals games, but had only one basket over the first 8:15 of the fourth, when the Thunder seized control of a game they trailed for all but the final few seconds of the first three quarters.



Oklahoma City Thunder small forward Kevin Durant (35) looks at the scoreboard against the Miami Heat during the first half at Game 1 of the NBA finals basketball series, Tuesday, June 12, 2012, in Oklahoma City.
AP

James averaged just three points in the fourth quarters of the Heat's six-game loss to Dallas last year, taking almost all the heat for Miami's finals failure. He was good in this one, Durant was just better.

"They didn't make many mistakes in the fourth quarter," James said.

And when fans chanted "MVP! MVP!" late in the game, they weren't talking about James, the guy who won the regular-season award.

They meant Durant, who is in a race with James for his first ring—and maybe the title of best player in the game.

Game 2 is Thursday night in Oklahoma City.

Dwyane Wade had 19 points but shot just 7 of 19 for the Heat, while Shane Battier provided some rare offense by scoring 17 points, his high this postseason.

Turning to a small lineup late in the third quarter, the Thunder improved to 9-0 at home in the postseason. Defensive ace Thabo Sefolosha helped defend James during the Thunder's comeback, relieving Durant of the burden so he could focus on his scoring.

And right now, nobody does it better.

Spoelstra said his team, pushed to seven games against Boston in a grueling conference finals the Heat finally won Saturday, preferred this quick turnaround. But perhaps they ran out of gas against the young Thunder, whose core players are all 23 and younger and look as if they could keep playing all night.

"Honestly, I think we just came out with a lot more intensity on the defensive end. Made them feel us a little bit," Westbrook said of the second half, when the Thunder outscored the Heat 58-40.

James and Wade both were bent over, hands on knees, during one stoppage with about 7 minutes remaining. Durant kept pouring it on, racing down the court to throw down a fast-break dunk and later adding a 3-pointer that pushed it to 87-81 with 6 1-2 minutes remaining.

The Heat got within four points, but Durant hit two quick baskets and Westbrook added another for a 10-point lead with 3:35 to go.

"They just made more plays than us," Wade said. "They got a couple offensive rebounds that kind of hurt us. Got a couple of open shots and from that point we were kind of playing from behind."

It's been a rapid rise toward the top for the Thunder, who started 3-29 in 2008-09, their first season here after moving from Seattle. Fans were clearly embracing the finals' arrival in Oklahoma City, where cars, buildings and even fans' hair seemed to be painted some form of orange or blue.

Fans standing until the Thunder's first basket didn't have to wait long, Durant knocking down a baseline jumper 70 seconds in. He made his first three shots, including two 3-pointers, but his teammates missed their first six attempts in falling into an early hole.

Durant made sure they were fine at the end.

Both superstars tried to downplay their individual matchup, Durant insisting it was about the team and James adamant that he didn't care about the best player in the game argument.

It was James' supporting cast that stepped up bigger to start, the Heat hitting five of their six 3-point attempts in jumping to a 29-22 lead after one quarter. Spoelstra kept Chris Bosh as a reserve, the role he has played since returning from a nine-game absence with a strained lower abdominal muscle. Smart decision, as Battier hit his first three 3-point attempts in the opening minutes to spark Miami's strong start.

Durant took only one shot in the second quarter, and it wasn't until 9 minutes had passed. By then, the Heat had built a lead as large as 13 points, keeping it in or near double digits most of the period before the Thunder sliced it to 54-47 at halftime.

Seemingly every fan was wearing the blue shirts hung on their chairs before the game - an exception being rapper Lil Wayne, who caused a stir during the Western Conference finals when he posted on Twitter that the Thunder wouldn't let him into their arena, with the team saying simply that he needed to buy tickets if he wanted to come. He did, he and his guest both wearing black.

The sea of blue around the court looked like the scene last year in Dallas, where James struggled so badly when it mattered most. He said he let his team down, vowing he would have no regrets about his performance this time around.

Unfortunately, the result was all too familiar to the Heat.

James quickly answered after Oklahoma City tied the game for the first time at 60-all midway through the third, banking in a shot and powering in for a layup and a quick four-point lead. The Heat pushed the lead back to five but the Thunder kept coming, finally pulling ahead for the first time when Westbrook darted into the lane and was fouled while scoring with 16.4 seconds remaining, the free throw making it 74-73.

Baskets by Durant and Sefolosha to open the fourth pushed it to a five-point lead, and the Heat never recovered.

LeBron needs more from rest of Heat's Big 3

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—LeBron James put up the kind of point total he never had in the NBA Finals before, and it still wasn't enough.

It will take more from the rest of Miami's Big Three for the Heat to get past the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh combined to go 11-for-30 from the field in Miami's 105-94 loss to Oklahoma City in Game 1 on Tuesday night, totaling 29 points to go with the 30 put up by James.

Wade was an inefficient 7 for 19 from the field but did have eight assists.

"I was attacking, I was getting my teammates shots and I got shots for myself. Attacking to me is just being aggressive. Some nights, I have big nights scoring and some nights I don't," Wade said. "That's been this season. That's just the way that it's designed for me."

The Thunder's trio of Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and James Harden teamed up for 68 points and stormed back from 13 points down to defeat the Heat, who got 59 points from their three top scorers despite coach Erik Spoelstra shortening his rotation.

"We know we have to have more production for sure," said James, who had never scored more than 25 points in his two previous finals appearances. "We have to have more guys in there to give me and D-Wade a rest, and Shane (Battier). Shane played a lot of minutes. But Spo will figure that out."

Game 2 is Thursday night in Oklahoma City before the series shifts to Miami for the next three games.

"We're on the road, we come here, we try to win one," Wade said. "Now, we make the adjustments and we come out and we try to split the next game.

"I'm not worried about it. I'm sure we'll find some better opportunities for ourselves and we'll be more comfortable in Game 2."

The Heat did get significant scoring contributions from Battier and Mario Chalmers, but 23 of their 29 points came in the first half when Miami was in control.

The Thunder switched to a smaller lineup in the second half, going without their starting frontcourt of Kendrick Perkins and Serge Ibaka and seemingly eliminating some of the open looks for Battier—who was matched up with Ibaka.

Battier and Chalmers, who were 9 for 12 overall and connected on five 3-pointers in the first half, attempted only four shots in the second as Miami's lead disappeared.

"I think we played our least intelligent half of basketball in about two months in the second half tonight," Battier said.

"In this league you have to move teams from side-to-side. You have to move bodies and you can't allow teams to lock in and stare at you," he added. "You try to make them move. In the first half we were moving them from side-to-side and we were able to get our attackers going. In the second half, we didn't do that as much."

After shooting 51 percent in the first half—and making six of 10 attempts from 3-point range—not much came easy for the Heat after halftime. The Thunder held Miami to 40 percent shooting and forced seven turnovers that contributed to an 11-0 scoring advantage on the fast break.

James had to score 16 of Miami's 40 points in the second half. Wade had 13, with two of his baskets coming after Oklahoma City's lead ballooned to double digits with less than 4 minutes left.

"We'll get him opportunities to attack. I think he had a couple of good opportunities to get into the paint there in the fourth, a couple maybe he wasn't able to convert," Spoelstra said. "But he was aggressive during that quarter. We'll try to get him in places where he can continue to be aggressive."

Bosh has been easing his way back from an abdominal injury that caused him to miss nine games between the Eastern Conference semifinals and finals. He played 34 minutes—his most since the injury—but missed seven of 11 shots and had 10 points and five rebounds.

Spoelstra opted to continue bringing Bosh off the bench for the fourth straight game, after he had started every game he played before the injury.

It seemed to be a good move when Miami got out to a strong start, but Bosh couldn't provide any spark in the third quarter as Oklahoma City was quickly erasing a seven-point halftime deficit.

"He's been very accepting of just trying to fit in," Spoelstra said, "but I think we're going to need more from him offensively and try to get him in spots where he's able to be aggressive."

Angels end 10-game road win streak in 5-2 loss

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Juan Rivera hit a three-run home run against his old team as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat their city rivals 5-2 in interleague play on Tuesday, ending the Angels' 10-game road winning streak.

Andre Ethier celebrated a new $85 million Dodgers contract by hitting his 500th career RBI in the eighth inning. That came after an umpire called Dee Gordon safe on a two-out stolen base. Replays appeared to show he was in fact out.

Dodgers reliever Jamey Wright (3-2) pitched a perfect eighth inning for the victory. Kenley Jansen retired the side in order in the ninth to earn the save.

Angels starter Jerome Williams (6-4) gave up five runs in 7 2-3 innings. The Angels failed to tie the club record for consecutive road wins, set in 1988.

AP

The Los Angeles Dodgers' Juan Rivera, right, is greeted at the plate by A.J. Ellis and Andre Ethier, hidden behind Ellis, as all score on Rivera's home run against the Los Angeles Angels in the eighth inning of an interleague baseball game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles Tuesday, June 12, 2012.

Yankees 6, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Alex Rodriguez hit his 23rd career grand slam, matching Lou Gehrig's record tally, as New York scored six runs in the eighth inning to rally for a win over Atlanta.

Nick Swisher hit a tiebreaking two-run homer two batters after Rodriguez connected off Jonny Venters (3-3).

New York starter C.C. Sabathia (8-3) left trailing 4-0 after seven innings but was the beneficiary of the rally. He gave up a season-worst 10 hits, while striking out six.

The Yankees matched their season high with their fifth straight win and moved into sole possession of first place in the American League East, one game ahead of Tampa Bay and Baltimore.

The Braves have lost three straight.

Nationals 4, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Bryce Harper homered off the restaurant in center field to help Washington edge Toronto.

Harper posted his second straight three-hit game, finishing 3 for 4.

Danny Espinosa added a two-run blast for the Nationals, who have won five in a row.

The Blue Jays lost for the fifth time in six games and dropped to 31-31. Toronto hasn't been below .500 this season.

Washington's Chien-Ming Wang (2-2) earned his first victory as a starter this season in his third attempt, allowing four hits in five innings while striking out five.

Toronto starter Henderson Alvarez (3-6) allowed four runs in seven innings. His winless streak extended to six starts.

Mets 11, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Chris Young settled down after a shaky first inning to get his first win in more than a year, steering New York past Tampa Bay.

Young was making his second major league outing since returning from shoulder surgery that sidelined him most of last season.

Rookie Jordany Valdespin drove in a career-high four runs, three with a pair of two-out hits. The Mets have scored a major league-leading 134 runs this season with two outs in an inning.

Valdespin's two-run single off Alex Cobb (2-3) put New York ahead 3-2 in the fifth. His double was the first big blow in the Mets' six-run seventh.

Cobb lost his third straight start after winning the first two following his promotion from the minors. He allowed six runs in 6 2-3 innings.

Orioles 8, Pirates 6

In Baltimore, Brian Roberts returned from a 13-month layoff to get three hits and an RBI, and Baltimore homered three times in a victory against Pittsburgh.

Roberts went 3 for 4 with a sacrifice fly. Playing in the majors for the first time since sustaining a concussion, Baltimore's longtime leadoff hitter received a standing ovation in the first inning before lining a single up the middle.

The two-time All-Star second baseman also singled in the fourth and eighth.

Orioles starter Wei-Yin Chen (6-2) allowed four runs in 6 1-3 innings. The Taiwan native improved to 4-0 at Camden Yards.

The Pirates' four-game winning streak ended and they fell out of a first-place tie with Cincinnati in the National League Central.

Pittsburgh starter Brad Lincoln (3-2) gave up four runs in 4 1-3 innings.

Rangers 9, Diamondbacks 1

In Arlington, Texas, Colby Lewis retired the first 16 Arizona batters, setting up Texas for a comfortable win.

Lewis (5-5) struck out seven and walked one as Texas ended Arizona's five-game winning streak.

Lewis didn't permit a man on base until the sixth inning.

Diamondbacks starter Ian Kennedy (5-6) gave up six runs in 5 2-3 innings. He arrived in Texas on a private plane earlier in the day after his wife gave birth.

Reds 7, Indians 1

In Cincinnati, Johnny Cueto allowed only one runner to reach second base during his second complete game of the season, guiding Cincinnati past Ohio rival Cleveland.

Cueto (7-3) struck out seven in the sixth complete game of his career.

Joey Votto's two-run homer in the seventh inning made it 57 straight games with at least one home run at Great American Ball Park, the longest active streak. Votto added an RBI single as the Reds pulled away in the eighth.

Jay Bruce had hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly for the Reds in the fifth off Jeanmar Gomez (4-5).

White Sox 6, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, A.J. Pierzynski hit a two-run homer as Chicago downed St. Louis.

White Sox rookie Jose Quintana (2-1) allowed just one run over 5 1-3 innings in his fifth start. He gave up ten hits but was helped by three double plays.

St. Louis' Adam Wainwright (5-7) lasted seven innings gave up two runs to be an unlucky loser.

Red Sox 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Clay Buchholz outpitched Mark Buehrle as Boston snapped a four-game losing streak with a victory over Miami.

Buchholz (7-2) struck out a season-high nine in seven innings while Buehrle (5-7) conceded five hits in seven innings to lose his first interleague game in 16 starts, dating back to 2007.

The game was scoreless until Boston's Kelly Shoppach hit an RBI double in the seventh inning and came home on a single by Mike Aviles.

Alfredo Aceves closed for his 15th save in 18 opportunities for the Red Sox.

Giants 6, Astros 3

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner had a season-high 12 strikeouts and hit his first major league home run to lead San Francisco over Houston in the lone National League game.

Bumgarner connected off Houston starter Bud Norris (5-4) leading off the third inning. It was the first home run by any Giant at their home park in four weeks.

Bumgarner (8-4) struck out the side in the first, allowed an unearned run in the third following a throwing error then kept the Astros in check before leaving in the eighth.

Norris sprained a knee in the fourth inning while chasing a foul pop-up, and left the game.

Twins 11, Phillies 7

In Minneapolis, Trevor Plouffe had a homer, a double and three RBIs to lead Minnesota past Philadelphia.

The Phillies left 10 runners on base and couldn't overcome another poor start from Kyle Kendrick (2-6), who gave up six runs. He has a 7.80 ERA in his last three starts.

The injury-plagued Phillies fell to 29-34, 9Ω games behind NL East leader Washington.

Twins starter Nick Blackburn (3-4) gave up four runs in five innings.

Royals 2, Brewers 1

In Kansas City, Billy Butler drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning to lift Kansas City over Milwaukee.

Alex Gordon, who homered to lead off the first, doubled to start the eighth and headed to third base on a bunt by Chris Getz. Butler then sent a pitch from Francisco Rodriguez (0-4) into center field to score the go-ahead run.

Kansas City starter Luis Mendoza didn't allow a hit until he got into trouble in the seventh, and the Kansas City bullpen came through with aplomb. Greg Holland (2-2) survived a shaky eighth inning to get the game to Jonathan Broxton, who earned the save.

Athletics 8, Rockies 5

In Denver, Bartolo Colon settled down after a rough start to steer Oakland past Colorado in the first meeting between the teams in three years.

Colon (6-6) trailed 4-0 after a tough first inning but only gave up one more run as he won consecutive decisions for the first time this season.

Oakland's Brandon Moss hit two home runs, including a towering shot off the facing of the third deck as the A's won their first game in four.

The Rockies have lost a season-worst six straight, and are 0-7 in interleague play this season.

Colorado starter Jeremy Guthrie (3-5) allowed the A's to bat around in a six-run third inning. He gave up seven runs in five innings.

Cubs 4, Tigers 3

In Chicago, Darwin Barney had three RBIs as Chicago capitalized on two throwing errors in the eighth inning to edge Detroit.

Barney had a run-scoring groundout and a clutch two-run double, helping the Cubs build a 3-0 lead just hours after they fired their hitting coach.

Carlos Marmol (1-2) got the last two outs of the eighth for the victory, and Shawn Camp finished for his first save as the Cubs snapped a seven-game losing streak against Detroit in their first matchup for three years.

Detroit's Phil Coke (1-3) got the loss.

Padres 5, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Clayton Richards pitched seven strong innings to steer San Diego to a tight win over Seattle.

Richards (3-7) allowed only one run.

Everth Cabrera had an RBI triple in the Padres' four-run sixth.

Seattle starter Felix Hernandez (4-5) foundered in his first outing in 11 days. allowing five runs in six innings.

The Mariners made a late push by scoring three runs in the ninth, but Huston Street got a ground out to end it and and earn the save.

Prosecutors challenge Clemens' wife in closing

WASHINGTON (AP)—In their final attempt to convince jurors that Roger Clemens lied to Congress, prosecutors basically called his wife a liar, too.

Prosecutor Courtney Saleski used closing arguments to challenge Debbie Clemens' version of how and when she got a shot of human growth hormone—just before the case went to the jury.

Debbie Clemens testified last week that she received a shot of HGH from her husband's then-strength coach, Brian McNamee, without Roger Clemens' knowledge. The government claims Roger Clemens was present for the shot.

Jurors, who met for only 15 minutes Tuesday, resume deliberations Wednesday afternoon.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winning pitcher, is charged with perjury, making false statements and obstructing Congress when he denied under oath in 2008 that he took steroids or HGH.

Loving Hands survives Wanted Sponsor, 80-77

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Hardware and Loving Hands Daycare each notched victories over separate opponents as the B Division of the Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League continued last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Saipan Hardware capped its third win in four games and cut up Cargo Express (2-2), 72-53, in the first pairing, while Loving Hands escaped Wanted Sponsor (1-2), 80-77, in the late feature to also improve to a 3-1 slate.

The season continues in Garapan tomorrow night with A Division play starting at 6pm with DLX (2-1) squaring off against Mobil (1-1) followed by Star Water (0-1) running into QQ Rent-A-Car (3-1) the at 8pm.

The rest of the A Division includes R-Rebels (2-1) and Ashely's (0-3), while the B Division is also made up of NVM (2-1) and Hip Hop Thunder (1-3).

Saipan Hardware's Ray Babauta drained a couple of late 3-pointers in the opening 10 minutes to push his team on front, 16-19, but Cargo Express' Mark Francisco connected with three from long range in the second quarter that helped pull his team to within a basket, 30-32, at halftime. Alex Lauron scored 8 second quarter points to help Saipan Hardware keep its slim lead.

Saipan Hardware buckled down on defense after intermission and held its rival to 10 points in the third quarter, while Lauron added 9 more points that helped them trot ahead, 51-40, heading into the last period.

It was all Saipan Hardware from there as Cargo Express' Francisco was held to just two lofts from downtown in the payoff period.

Lauron led all scorers with 25 points, while Francisco's 18 all came in the form of six threes.

In the late match, Loving Hands sunk three treys in the first quarter for a welcome 23-17 edge and maintained the cushion, 45-39, at halftime thanks to another pair of 3-point bunches from Sonny Lerio and J.R. Barios.

Wanted Sponsor also hit four shots from behind the arc in the first half that went with a dozen markers by power forward Kae Bernardo that kept the group in pursuit.

Wanted Sponsor regrouped at the break and willed its way back into the game, tying it at 52-all heading into the fourth quarter.

However, despite a handful of 3-balls by the team in the clutch, Loving Hands' Marvin Rabauliman delivered 13 big points at crunch time that ultimately crashed the party.

He also chimed in three of his team's six pressure-packed free throws in the late minutes that helped secure the win.

Five other Loving Hands players helped provide support in the fourth quarter effort in addition to holding Bernardo to just 3 points in the last frame.

Though both teams made the points rain Sunday night, lightning struck Loving Hands' Lerio the most. He has been on the mark since early this season and buried four long balls in the game for a game-high 18 points, one-upping teammate Rabauliman and Wanted Sponsor's Bernardo.

First Game

Saipan Hardware 72 – Lauron 25, R. Babauta 12, Peredo 8, Z. Babauta 7, Tenorio 7, Quan 5, J. Diaz 2.

Cargo Express 63 – Francisco 18, Sharry 12, Talania 8, Berline 7, Morales 5, Archangel 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-9, 32-30, 51-40, 72-63.

Second Game

Loving Hands 80 – Lerio 18, Rabauliman 17, Barios 11, Johannes 8, Gabaldon 8, G. Aquino 7, B. Aquino 7, Tabora 2.

Wanted Sponsor 77 – Bernardo 17, D Sablan 16, Basilla 13, Yabut 9, Capalad 7, Miranda 7, Pantaleon 5, Metran 3.

Scoring by quarters: 23-17, 45-39, 52-52, 80-77.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

held from July 1 to July 8 in Taichung, Taipei.

The Saipan Junior All-Stars, meanwhile, include Jonathan Camacho, Jerald Cabrera, Kelvin Deleon Guerrero, Terson Eina, Darion Jones, James Kintaro, Mike Muna, Nathan Camacho, Jhace Palacios, Virolanson Secharmedal, Roke Tenorio, Kainao Wanket, and Kenji Yamagata.

Manager Bernard Cabrera, head coach Randall Aguon, and assistant coach Henry Lizama head the squad.

The Juniors' ASPAC tourney will be held from June 30 to July 6 in Nha Trang City, Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam.

MAJORS

Coming into Wednesday's finals, the Saipan Majors romped Tinian, 20-3, in Tuesday's round-robin opener and then shut out Rota, 24-0, later that same day to advance to the finals as the first place team.

In yesterday's championship game, Saipan's Iguel broke the ice in the second inning when he scored off a fielder's choice and the rest of the gashed Tinian with eight runs in the next frame.

A walk, an early error, and a fielder's choice set the stage for a two-RBI triple by Agda who wound up scoring off an error during the play.

Secharmidal doubled home Aguon shortly after and two other runs came to the dish as the result of some weary pitching with the bases loaded.

Tinian played well despite the rough outing in the third inning and went on to keep a lid on Saipan through the remainder of the contest. However, the group never got things going at the plate against Saipan's Cruz who only dealt a two-hit shutout with 14 strikeouts.

The day earlier, Tinian responded to Saipan's three runs in the opening frame with three runs in the bottom of the inning off a three-run homerun by John Cruz that brought in two runs.

It would be their only offensive production of the game, however, as Saipan shrugged it off and went ahead, 6-3, in the second inning with a lot of patience at the plate.

Tinian hurler William Cing Jr. issued three leadoff walks, which all came in to score off a passed ball an error and an RBI single by Ethan Babauta.

Saipan was just getting started and went on to added four more runs in the third inning off an early error and a two-RBI triple by Babauta. He also scored soon after off a passed ball.

Tinian's bats cooled off after the early success and left three runners in scoring position in the next three frames.

Saipan delivered the knockout blow with 10 runs in the fourth inning off 10 hits.

Aguon bagged an RBI single, Secharmidal a two-RBI base rip, Babauta smashed another RBI triple before being sacrificed home by Iguel, while Kapileo and Secharmidal both notched RBI base knocks.

Babauta batted 3-for-3 with four RBIs, two runs, and a stolen base.

Rota held Saipan scoreless in the first inning of the second match, but they amassed a daunting 11-0 lead in the second inning off eight hits.

Agda belted a two-RBI smash, Babauta bagged an RBI single, and was doubled home by Iguel, while Hocog and Saralu finished the frame with a pair of RBI base pokes.

Saipan then piled on another 10 runs off seven hits in the next frame.

Babauta bashed another RBI single, Hocog cranked a two-RBI double and Agda jacked a three-run shot that scored Kapileo and Hocog. Secharmidal and Cruz capped it all off with two more RBI base hits.

Saipan's Hocog finished his third scoreless inning on the hump and his teammates added four more runs for good measure in the fourth frame before handing it over to his closer Atalig.

Notably both players coincidentally lifted a pair of solo shots in the top half of the fourth inning.

JUNIORS

In yesterday's finals, the Saipan Junior All-Stars broke out to an early 4-0 lead in the first inning off a two-RBI base rip by Nathan Camacho and a two-RBI double by Muna.

The team moved around another four runs in the second inning off a two-RBI single by Eina, a double by Nathan Camacho, and a sacrifice fly by Guerrero.

Rota cashed in its lone-run in the bottom frame from a base hit by Keanu Barcinas, but Saipan never had a doubt.

Saipan responded with two runs in the third inning off a triple by Secharmidal and a sacrifice fly by Palacios, and then added five more in the fourth off an error, two fielder's choices, and three hits to secure the run-rule victory. Kintaro delivered a two-RBI base rip, while Yamagata and Palacios bagged RBI singles.

In Tuesday's opener, Saipan pounced on Rota, 17-2, and its second match against its rival was called off due to lightning later that same evening. Saipan was winning, 10-1, in the second inning prior to the stoppage.

Going back to the opener, visiting Saipan took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning off some early jitters by Rota's infield before jumping ahead, 8-0, in the top of the second off five hits.

Darion Jones led off with a triple and scored off a passed ball, Eina singled in Deleon Guerrero before being escorted home by Palacios, while Tenorio busted a two-RBI base rip before scoring himself off a wild pitch.

Rota managed a couple of runs off wild pitches in the bottom frame, but only advanced one runner into scoring position in the remaining innings.

After a quiet third frame, Saipan pulled out a six-run string in the fourth to move ahead, 14-2, off four hits, including an RBI double by Tenorio and a two-RBI single by Eina; Muna also stole home in the inning.

They went on to add three more runs in the fifth inning before closing up early.

Tenorio batted 2-for-4 with three RBIs and three runs.

Prior to the wash out, Saipan's Palacios broke the ice with an RBI single in the first inning and the team gashed Rota for nine runs in the second inning off six hits before the game was called off with two outs and runners at second and third base.

Jones hammered a three-run inside-the-park homer, while Tenorio, Jonathan Camacho and Yamagata all bashed two-RBI singles in the onslaught. The game was initially planned to resume the following morning at 10am, but the teams decided to move on to the championship match.

Results of the Senior and Big League divisions will be published in tomorrow's issue of the *Saipan Tribune*.

MIYAZUKA

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reef swim. The 1.5-km route was capped by female competitor Noriko Ito in 31:55, edging out the top male competitors of Shoji Yamashita (32:45), Yoshio Shimizu (34:00), and Kohki Kaneko (38:56). Ito was followed by female competitors Satsuki Matsuo (41:18) and Mioko Koda (46:16).

The oldest event competitor, 72-year-old Midori Hasegawa, finished the 1-km reef swim in 47:13.

The 3-km reef swim went to all female finishers first: Riko Nagashima (56:02), Akie Matoba (1:03:31), and Chiyomi Tanaka (1:03:48). Only two males competed in the 13-swimmer 3-km pack, with 68-year-old Kazumi Mineo finishing first for the men and fifth overall in 1:08:34.

"This year's triathlon went off without a hitch, to the great satisfaction of our competitors who travelled all the way from Japan to enjoy the competition,î said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "We're very grateful to the Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and the Tinian community for rolling out the red carpet of hospitality to our visitors again this year."

The event was also organized by KFC Triathlon Club of Japan. The Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim is an annual signature event of the Northern Mariana Islands held each June. ***(MVA)***

TWO

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dem of Joel and Alma Ortega were victorious against Brandon Talania and Roma Barlao. The couple lost the opening game, 11-21, but managed to steal the championship after recovering in the second, 21-13, and showing poise in the winner-take-all third game, 22-20.

The Ortegas made it to the championship round after sweeping Son Jae Ok and Fen Luan Li in the first semis game last Saturday, 21-13, 21-13. Talania and Barlao also needed only two games to eliminate Dick Koo and Bae Woo Kyung in the other Final Four pairing, 21-16, 21-8. Koo and Kyung saved third place after a 21-16, 21-16 victory over Son and Fen.

Meanwhile, the semis cast in the women's C and men's B singles were completed over the weekend.

In the women's C singles, Midori Obi will face Irish Pagarao, while Jane Tupas is paired against Barlao. In the men's B singles, Of will square off against Jexler Caranto, while Wowie Abuel will duel Espana.

Semis pairings in the men's A and C singles, women's A and B singles, and mixed doubles A will be determined before the week ends and title matches are expected to be played this Sunday.

BACK-TOBACK

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Minda's 60-54 lead at the end of the third frame.

VisMinda lost the lead and eventually the game when it was held to only three field goals in the fourth quarter and was scoreless in the first three minutes of that canto. Bobby Geli's game-high 29 points went down the drain, as VisMinda absorbed its second loss in three games.

Geli was the lone VisMinda player to score more than two points in the final quarter. He had 10 early points, lifting VisMinda to an 18-12 advantage. Geli slowed down in the second, but still nailed four points, while Sandy Quemado chipped in six to keep VisMinda in the lead at the break, 35-33.

Geli was back in the grove in the third canto, drilling 12 points to help VisMinda gain more distance against Laguna with still one full quarter to go.

However, in the fourth quarter, Laguna slowly closed the gap with Villegas scoring in streak early and Park finishing what the former started to complete the come-from-behind win.

Bayani/LBT 89, MAFEA/CMI 59

In the second game, Bayani/LBT Appraisal routed MAFEA/CNMI.

After neck-and-neck first period, Bayani went on a decisive 21-8 scoring in the second canto to turn a slim 19-17 lead to a comfortable 40-25 halftime advantage. Bayani never looked back from thereon, as it continued to draw contributions from every player it fielded in the game in the second half.

Bayani had five players breaking into double figures, while three others logged at least six points apiece. Felix Palacios led the team with his 16 points, Jack Palacios added 14, Ed Cosino fired 13, and Tony Diaz and Alex Ocampo added 11 and 10, respectively.

Roger Paraiso top-scored for the winless MAFEA (0-4) with his 20 points, while Dionisio Malicden was the only one who provided help to the former, contributing 14.

First Game

Laguna/Twinkle/Erika's 80 – Park 17, Villegas 13, Ebuen 10, Manipon 9, Salazar 8, Lansang 8, Pablo 7, Lopez 6.

VisMinda/Civic Boys 69 – Geli 29, Miguel 9, Bello 8, Quemado 8, Mangubat 4, Olfindo 4, Santos 4, De Belen 3.

Scoring by quarters: 12-18, 33-35, 54-60, 80-69.

Second Game

Bayani/LBT Appraisal 89 – F. Palacios 16, J. Palacios 14, Cosino 13, Diaz 11, Ocampo 10, Bicera 8, Sahagun 6, Pineda 6, De La Torre 4.

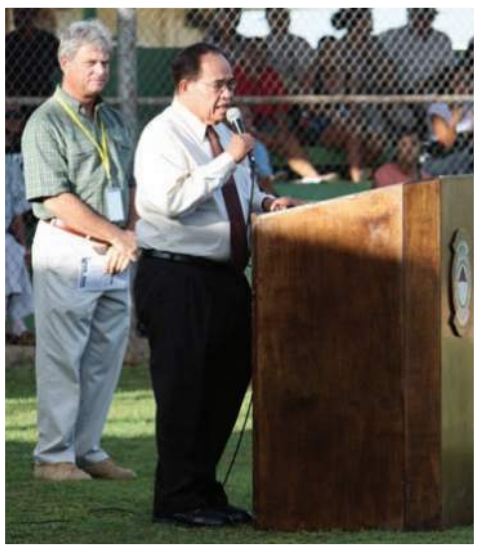
MAFEA/CMI 59 – Paraiso 20, Malicden 14, Guirey 8, Factor 8, Sevilla 4, Imbo 3, Jastillana 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 40-25, 66-45, 89-59.

CNMI Little League District Tournament

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Father Jesse Reyes blesses the players with holy water during the opening ceremony of the 2012 CNMI Little League District Tournament held last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial made a public appearance and addressed the crowd.

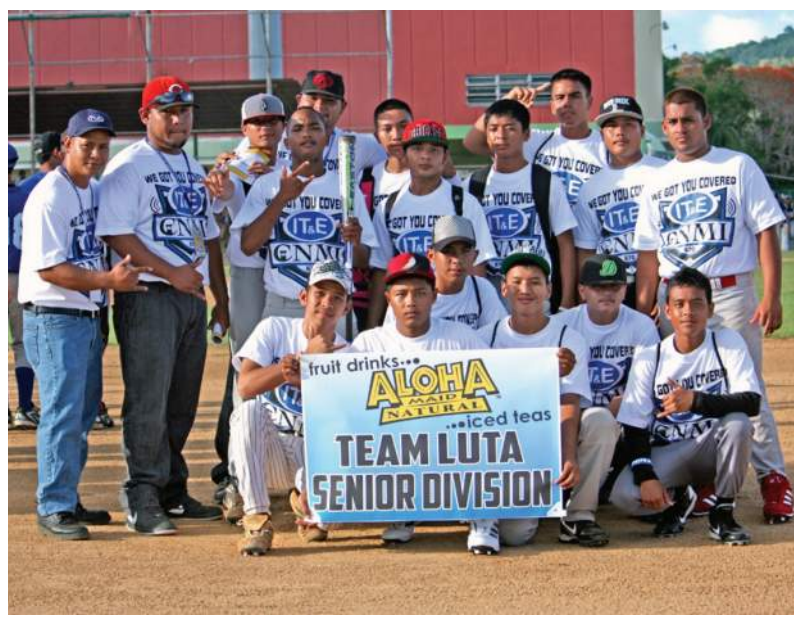
CNMI District Administrator James Ada announced plans of retiring after the conclusion of this year's Little League events.

Players from the Saipan, Rota, and Tinian Major League recite the Little League pledge.

Rota's Big Leaguers smile for the camera.

Rota's Junior League players pose for a group photo.

Rota's Major League squad gathers for a team photo.



Rota's Senior League all-stars pause for a group shot.

The Tinian Major division all-stars pose for a team photo.

Tinian Senior Leaguers line up for a group shot.

Durant powers Thunder past LeBron's Heat

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Sports

Angels end 10-game road win streak in 5-2 loss

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CNMI DISTRICT TOURNEY

Saipan all-stars top Majors, Juniors

Saipan Little League's Major, left, and Junior All-Star won the championship of the CNMI Little League District Tournament that concluded yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex. WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Saipan Little League's Major and Junior All-Star swept the 2012 CNMI Little League District Tournament and advanced to the Asia-Pacific Regional Championship after the conclusion of yesterday's championship matches at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The Saipan Major All-Stars defeated Tinian, 9-0, with a big eight-run push in the third inning at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, while the Saipan Juniors All-Stars laid to rest Rota, 15-1, in their championship game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Major All-Stars are made up of Kier Agda, Ryan Aguon, John Atalig, Ethan Babauta, Erik Cruz, Austin Hocog, Benen Iguel, Jay Kalen, Matt Kapileo, Aurel Mendiola, Brandon Pua, Joaquin Saralu, Virgil Secharmidal, and Nathaniel Torres.

Manager Antonio Camacho, head coach Kent Kalen, and assistant coach Pete Tomokane front the squad.

The Majors' ASPAC tourney will be

See SAIPAN on Page 26

Two pairs crowned champs in IT&E tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two teams reached the Promised Land early after winning their separate championship matches in the IT&E Singles & Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament 2012 over the weekend at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The pair of Oh Im Bog and Toshiko Obata secured the mixed doubles B crown last Sunday after beating the father-and-daughter tandem of Jojo and Jen Savellano in the finals in straight games, 21-8, 21-16.

Oh and Obata, who finished the elimination round of Pool with on top with a 7-1 record, advanced to the championship round following a three game victory over Rodwealth Espana and Elna Curate in the semis. The eventual champions took the opening game, 21-17, but failed to wrap up the match early when Espana and Curate regrouped in the second game and won, 21-19. Then in the deciding third set, it was Oh and Obata's turn to regain their bearings for a 21-13 title win.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Oh Im Bog, seen here in the elimination games in the mixed doubles B of the IT&E tournament, teamed up with Toshiko Obata in beating Jojo and Jen Savellano in the finals last Sunday at the NMBA Gym at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

In the other Final Four pairing, the Savellanos, who were undefeated in the round-robin elimination in Pool B, swept Pool A No. 2 finisher Chris Hilario and Annette Ta. The father-and-daughter pair easily prevailed in the opening game, 21-12, before facing a tough challenge against Ta and Hilario in the extended second game, 27-25.

Ta and Hilario went on to settle for a third place finish after surviving Espana and Curate in the consolation game. Hilario and Ta eked out a 25-23 in the opening game and dropped the second, 16-21, before sealing the Top 3 finish with a 21-12 victory in the final game.

In the mixed doubles C title match, the husband-and-wife tan-

See TWO on Page 26

Miyazuka tops 12th Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon

A pack of 33 swimmers, runners, and bikers from Japan competed in the 12th Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim held last June 2 with Hidea Miyazuka repeating his winning form of 2011 to finish as champion.

Forty-nine-year-old Miyazuka completed the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km run, and 10-km bike in 2:30:40.

Rounding out the top male finishers were Katsumasa Nesori in 3:30:39 and Shohei Shibata in 3:33:30.

Female finishers in the triathlon were led by Satomi Okochi in 3:07:15, followed by Yoko Mineo in 3:31:30 and Midori Takeuchi in 3:35:02.

Making a celebrity showing this year was Japan model Kaori Ikeda, who finished the full triathlon in 3:59:47. The event was also covered by Japan's Triathlon Magazine.

Some competitors opted for only the

See MIYAZUKA on Page 26

MVA

Three-time Tagaman Triathlon champion Hidea Miyazuka poses for photographers after placing first place in the 12th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim held last June 2.

Back-to-back wins for Laguna

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Laguna/Twinkle/Erika's clinched its second straight victory after pulling off a come-from-behind win over VisMinda/Civic Boys, 80-69, during the first game in the 2012 UFO Masters Budweiser Cup last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Laguna outscored VisMinda in the fourth quarter, 26-9, to improve to a 2-1 record for a share of second place with Bayani/LBT Appraisal.

Warren Villegas and Hae Jun Park teamed up in Laguna's fourth-quarter juggernaut with the former making 7 of the team's first 9 points in the fourth period and the latter also nailing seven straight markers in the closing minutes. Park had 11 points in the fourth quarter alone for a team-high 17, while Villegas drilled 8 of his 13 in the payoff period.

The duo's scoring explosion in the fourth allowed Laguna to wipe out Vis-

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 26